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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-073 *15 April 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th on Negotiations, 'Zero Hour' of Withdrawal

NC1504064994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that there is no substitute for continuing the negotiations with Israel and expressed his belief that Israel cannot retreat from this path.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM on 15 April, he said: We are now completing the first stage, which will not end without entering Gaza and Jericho and without the Israeli forces' withdrawal. He added that the negotiating process opens the door to the [Israeli] withdrawal, the establishment of a national Palestinian authority, the entry of the Palestinian armed force from abroad in the form of police, and the entry of the Palestinian political leadership.

He said: Since engaging in the peace process I have become convinced that we will reach this land, that the Israeli withdrawal is inevitable, and that there is no going back on the process. The process may be delayed and cost lives but there is no substitute for continuing the negotiations.

Asked about the current phase of the negotiations, he said it represents the last tussle at the negotiating table.

He said: We want to learn the date of the signing of the agreement so that we can determine the withdrawal date. We have agreed with the Israelis to complete the entry of all the Palestinian forces during the first week after the signing and that the "zero hour" of the Israeli withdrawal will take place the following week. Thus there will be a dual authority for one week to avoid a security vacuum. We also supported this. But the question is: When will this "zero hour" come?

Islamic Affairs

Brotherhood Spokesman Comments on Terror, Parties

NC1504085494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Why has the Muslim Brotherhood washed its hands, crawled into its shell, and turned into a spectator in the game of terror and extremism?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have not turned into spectators. We work within our potential. Ours is a constant effort to spread the true faith and the correct ideas, which involves eradicating any mistaken ideas and unfounded opinions.

[Al-Sa'id] But the tide of terror remains high and has not been turned back.

[Al-Hudaybi] Terror exists and no one can deny it. But I cannot destroy it with my current resources. The government does not legally recognize my group. All my activities are unlawful and my people are prone to arrest. Can I call a public meeting? No, it is forbidden.

[Al-Sa'id] If you sincerely want to contain extremism and terror you will succeed.

[Al-Hudaybi] No, not so. They [the government] want us to attack them [the terrorists] without spreading the true word [of Islam].

[Al-Sa'id] Don't you have a good cause for disclaiming their [the extremists'] wrong views? Or are you afraid of them?

[Al-Hudaybi] To act, the state should give us leeway. Besides, how can I reach these people [the extremists] when they work underground. I do not know them. It is not easy for me to get to know them.

[Al-Sa'id] Rumor has it that you have lines of communication with them, isn't that so?

[Al-Hudaybi] There are no lines of communication or links between us and them. And the stage is not set for me to confront them. I cannot change things through preaching when I am a wanted man and my group is unrecognized. The first thing we should have to confront terror is a climate of freedom in which our rights and those of others would be respected and everyone would be free to express their opinions peacefully and without the use of force or threat of using it.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people claim there is an unholy alliance between you and the terrorist groups?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have nothing to do with them. We continue to denounce terror. We oppose violence because it disrupts our march, hampers Islamic propagation at home and abroad, and tarnishes our image. The government is required to uphold the Constitution and respect the law. It should promote justice, fairness, and freedom of opinion. The government should play by the rules of democracy. It should build true democracy, not a bogus one in which elections are rigged and parties are banned unless they have the personal approval of the head of state.

[Al-Sa'id] You are discussing political rights; I am discussing pure religion.

[Al-Hudaybi] Impossible. To us, religion and politics are interrelated and inseparable. The issue is unrelated with religion. No one is being prevented from praying, fasting, or performing any rite; he is being prevented from calling for an intellectual state built on respect for the basic principles of Islamic shari'ah.

[Al-Sa'id] There is no difference between what you are advocating and what is happening in society. We in Egypt are governed by shari'ah; 99 percent of our operational laws are derived from shari'ah.

[Al-Hudaybi] This is not true. The ratio might not even be 5 percent. I am a man of law and I know. First, the Hudud [Koran-stipulated punishments] are not applied and many laws violate shari'ah.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you discussing the banking system?

[Al-Hudaybi] The entire economic system. There are many prohibitions, including prohibition of that which is shown on television. Islam is a creed and a code of ethics and conduct.

[Al-Sa'id] If this is the situation, you might as well apply Islam's criteria on terrorists, who ruin society by killing, stealing, and usurping in the name of religion.

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no power to apply them; we are not an authority to apply them. How can we do that?

[Al-Sa'id] By propagating Islam and cleansing terrorists of their faults and wrong concepts.

[Al-Hudaybi] I am promoting the call, making efforts, and speaking. I have no militia to fight people with arms. I am no agent for the authority. I propagate my creed and authentic Islam.

[Al-Sa'id] Nobody asked you to be an agent of the authority and nobody prevented you from propagating authentic Islam.

[Al-Hudaybi] My call is to distinguish the authentic from the false. Recruiting me to attack people as if I were a tool in the government's hand is rejected.

That is why I say that official jurisprudence produces no results, because it does not enjoy all its freedom. It is being asked to support the authorities. Hence, it loses its credibility instantly.

[Al-Sa'id] You are accused of having your eyes on power. Many fear that you will ride the wave of democracy to destroy it.

[Al-Hudaybi] Why do they fear for power? Do they stick to it or hate it? If they fear for it or if it is bad why do they stick to it?

[Al-Sa'id] Basically you preach to the people that they should observe religion without taking notice of purposes and goals or use religion as a means to an end. [as published]

[Al-Hudaybi] We preach to people that they should observe religion. Government rule is part of the shari'ah and creed. The difference between us and others is that we do not call for taking power for ourselves. We call on those who are in government to apply Islamic shari'ah and say that we will be their servants and the first to support them. I am not claiming that I represent Islam. We wrote a book in jail in 1969 entitled "Preachers Not Judges." The book, written by Hasan al-Hudaybi, was a response to the calls for repudiation and renunciation. We explained these issues and maintained that we call for true religion but judge no particular person as an atheist.

[Al-Sa'id] The relationship between you and the terrorists is one of specialization but you pretend to have nothing to do with them. While you pretend to disapprove of the terrorist operations of the extremist groups, you give justifications and defend them.

[Al-Hudaybi] Anyone who wants to discuss things that have no foundation can do so. We have nothing to do with these people.

[Al-Sa'id] It is being said that the hardline wing represents your first line of defense and that the Muslim Brotherhood is hiding behind it until the time is ripe to seize power.

[Al-Hudaybi] We cannot argue with those people who make false accusations, because they do not understand our conscience or mentality. But they do oppose reality. The investigations into the cases of violence, the old case of the war college, the killing of al-Sadat, and current events, confirm that the Muslim Brotherhood had nothing to do with such actions. Had anything been proven against us, it would have appeared immediately, because the government does us no favors.

[Al-Sa'id] You have reportedly had contacts with the outside world, including the United States and Iran. Also, your contacts with the Zionist movement are not ruled out.

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no connection with any of those. We have no relations with Iran, except when we are invited to attend a conference there. We have no relations with the United States, because nobody would accept having relations with the United States. In what way could we benefit from this relationship? It is a major disaster.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Zionist movement?

[Al-Hudaybi] You should not say anything that is untrue.

[Al-Sa'id] You have an international organization with charters in Switzerland and Munich. You also have resources that enabled you to coordinate the efforts of the political Islamic movement in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no organizations abroad. Do you call the attending of an international conference that is attended by people from elsewhere an organization, as if we were using this conference to stage a coup against the world?

[Al-Sa'id] What exactly do you want? Do you want an Islamic approach or a religious state?

[Al-Hudaybi] First, let's be specific and take, for example, the Islamic approach. If we say we want a government that abides by Islam, they will then say that this government is a religious one and that the Islamic approach is the basis. I do not care who applies this. The application of this approach is what counts. We are ready to be the servants of the government if it applies it.

[Al-Sa'id] What issues do you propose as essential in the national dialogue? Do you believe the issue of a religious party should be considered?

[Al-Hudaybi] Parties are civilian. Each party must have its line of thought. Is it prohibited for Muslims to set up parties that adopt their Islamic creed and thought?

[Al-Sa'id] The Constitution makes no provision for religious parties.

[Al-Hudaybi] But it did not ban them. I am a man of law and I challenge this.

[Al-Sa'id] But this will open the door wide to religious parties and the Copts will demand equal treatment.

[Al-Hudaybi] What will happen if they set up a religious party? The Copts are no idiots. Let them set up a party. Whoever forms a political party seeks to rule to apply his principles and dogma. If the Copts in Egypt represent no more than 7 percent, they can never contemplate ruling the country. But if they want a party, it will be to defend their interests and rights and we welcome this.

[Al-Sa'id] A conflict will ensue.

[Al-Hudaybi] Nothing of the sort will happen. Is the application of Islamic principles a novelty? Islam has been applied for centuries. Why the fear then?

[Al-Sa'id] If the arena is opened to religious parties, extremist Islamic currents will demand parties of their own.

[Al-Hudaybi] What do we fear? On the contrary, when freedoms are guaranteed only the good will survive. Even devious trends will expose themselves in such a climate.

[Al-Sa'id] But can the state withstand being a field for experiments?

[Al-Hudaybi] All states have parties. There is no fear of parties.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you want parties made up of murderers?

[Al-Hudaybi] If there is freedom a murderer cannot murder. If he kills, the whole world will rise against him, detest him, and cast him out. In every state there are parties. Algeria had 50 parties. Now there are three. Yemeni parties have fallen to three. Issues are always settled; elections provide the supportive power of the entire people.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you see a need to set up a national front?

[Al-Hudaybi] No. All it will do is applaud.

[Al-Sa'id] So what is the remedy for terror?

[Al-Hudaybi] Freedom. The government restricts freedoms and we call upon it to give freedom to the people and abandon the use of force. We call on it to hold free elections and call off the emergency laws that have been in force since 1981. Even the legally recognized parties feel restricted by these laws. The government should be truthful, just, and fair to gain the people's confidence. There is also a need for economic, social, intellectual, and cultural reforms.

[Al-Sa'id] I wonder who will take care of the cultural part?

[Al-Hudaybi] Anyone who is qualified. I believe the grand imam of al-Azhar is qualified and should be given the freedom to state everything that he believes. We respect al-Azhar and think it has a worthy mission but it needs to win the people's trust. It cannot do so if it goes on acting like a government clerk who carries out orders.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you think of the security confrontation?

[Al-Hudaybi] Security efforts alone will lead nowhere. There must be freedom, democracy, and parties that truly represent the people and work within the basic principles of the Constitution. Over 90 percent of the violence is due to despair that there will be no change for the better.

[Al-Sa'id] Why have you not used your influence to contain terror?

[Al-Hudaybi] What can we do? Is it not enough that we protect all the professional associations of which we gain control from any terrorist influence and prevent any terrorist ideas from infiltrating them? We are not a government that can eradicate terror. I can destroy them if I have freedom. Some 90 percent of the causes of deviation and violence would disappear if the people were given the freedom to express their opinions safely and without threat of violence. Violence breeds violence.

Palestinian Affairs

Source: 'Arafat, Rabin To Sign Agreement in May

NC1504105294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 15 Apr (MENA)—A high-ranking Palestinian source has said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will sign an agreement on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Cairo in early May.

The source, who supervised the Palestinian delegation to the latest round of negotiations, said agreement on many issues has been reached with the Israelis. These include the size and deployment of the Palestinian police force,

linking the deployment of the force and the Israeli pullout of Gaza and Jericho with the release of Palestinian detainees and civil affairs, the source said.

Geographic jurisdiction and the judiciary system in the Palestinian autonomous region are now being discussed, the source added.

The source said 'Arafat will enter Gaza and Jericho in late June or early July at the latest.

He said there is an agreement within the PLO leadership that the Political Department, led by Faruq Qaddumi, and the Arab and International Department, led by Mahmud 'Abbas, remain in Tunis.

Informed Palestinian sources said the readiness expressed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday to dismantle some settlements in the occupied territories as part of efforts to achieve a permanent peace with the Palestinians constitutes a serious beginning toward ending over 50 years of enmity.

The sources expressed a belief that the recent operations in 'Afula and Hadera, in which many Israelis were killed, will give the negotiations more momentum than expected.

Other Palestinian sources said the recent telephone conversation between Rabin and 'Arafat dealt with some aspects of the Declaration of Principles, especially the pressing Palestinian desire to get the negotiations into their final stage. The sources said that many sides are now making efforts toward this end. They added that 'Arafat expressed his full preparedness to enter into this final stage.

'Arafat Decides To Collect Weapons in Lebanese Camps

NC1404122094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, 14 Apr (MENA)—Political sources in Beirut said today that PLO military personnel in Lebanon have begun to collect all types of light weapons carried by individuals in Palestinian camps in Sidon and Tyre in south Lebanon. This is being done in line with a decision by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian sources reported that 'Arafat instructed Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, the camps' military commander, via a message delivered to him by a leading Lebanese personality, to collect all personal and other weapons from the camps immediately, ahead of their transfer to Gaza and Jericho by official Egyptian authorities.

Abu-al-'Aynayn reportedly received a telephone call from Lieutenant Colonel Nasr Yusuf in Tunis asking him to implement 'Arafat's decision immediately. Lt. Col. Yusuf is the official who will command the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian source said some of the weapons have already been gathered and their number and type recorded, whether they are from military men or civilians.

These sources noted that Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, the Fatah Forces commander in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp in south Lebanon and a man who opposes Yasir 'Arafat, has declared his refusal to allow weapons to be gathered from his forces inside the camp. He said in a statement today: Our rifles will remain under the control of the Syrian and Lebanese Army.

Lebanese political circles noted that Palestinian contacts took place during the past few weeks. The objective of these contacts was to coordinate on gathering weapons from the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in preparation for sending them to the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho.

The circles also said that last Monday's storming by the Lebanese Army of numerous arms caches belonging to a Palestinian faction in the district of Sharhabil, east of Sidon, in south Lebanon and the seizure of large amounts of weapons, missiles, and hand grenades fall within the framework of a plan set out by Lebanese and Palestinian officials.

The Lebanese circles expressed their belief that the prevailing trend now is to empty all the Palestinian camps of weapons as planned.

Diplomatic sources in Lebanon reported that interest is increasing among Lebanese officials regarding the conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon, in particular after signs emerged that conditions inside the camps are worrying in light of developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

During its meeting last night, the Lebanese Council of Ministers refused to approve the request submitted by the 10 Palestinian factions in Lebanon to hold a political rally organized together with Hizballah and the national resistance in Lebanon.

Sources Comment on Palestinian Police Deployment

NC1404210094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 14 Apr (MENA)—Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH cites European diplomatic sources as saying that the PLO and Israel have agreed on the entrance of a Palestinian police battalion to Gaza and Jericho at a time yet to be determined and on its deployment within a period not exceeding 10 days.

According to the sources, this will be followed by the entry of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], which is made up of 7,000 soldiers and officers, as a Palestinian police that will take charge of public security and prepare for the entry of the PLO apparatuses within five or six months.

The sources assert that the Palestinian side emphasized a number of points during their talks with Israelis in Cairo, primarily the commitment to a specific timetable ratified by the Israeli side that links the entry of the vanguards of the Palestinian police to that of the basic force into the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian demands involved the size and armaments of the Palestinian police and emphasized that these troops should enter with their weapons and equipment and dressed in an official uniform.

The European sources said that the Palestinian side insists on the entry of the police force according to a timetable that coincides with the redeployment of the occupation troops not later than the end of April.

The sources add that the Israeli side is trying to delay the entry of the Palestinian police to the period 15 May-1 July. The PLO warned against the effect such a measure may have, noting that it might create a security vacuum with moral and military repercussions, particularly since Israel is encouraging the possession of personal weapons in Gaza. The sector is witnessing a state of chaos deliberately encouraged by the Israelis with the goal of creating more problems for the Palestinian leadership before control is turned over to it.

According to the sources, the Palestinian side insists on the entry of the Palestinian police with their official uniform, weapons, and equipment to create a reassuring atmosphere of dignity. Meanwhile, the Israeli side wants these troops to enter in civilian cars or buses with sealed windows, like prisoners of war or infiltrators instead of a police force returning to the homeland.

The European diplomatic sources said that the Palestinian side is emphasizing the psychological side by insisting on the entry of the police force in the official uniform behind their flags in an official ceremony to win additional support for the Declaration of Principles.

The sources add that the most prominent personalities that will lead the vanguards of the police force are Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police force; Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majaydah, deputy chief of staff of the PLA, who will be commander of the Gaza police; Major General Mahmud Yusuf, head of the PLO military department, who will be commander of Jericho police; and Brigadier General Mamduh Nawfal, who will be in charge of criminal security.

According to the sources, the commanders of Palestinian troops in Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Iraq, and Jordan have prepared lists of their personnel to prepare for leaving for Jordan and Egypt. Moreover, the sources add, the Saudi Government has undertaken to transport the Palestinian military units on its planes.

Sha'th: Stalemated Peace Process Fosters Violence

JN1404195094 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the negotiating Palestinian team, has warned against the gravity of Israel's failure to honor the dates of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The withdrawal had been scheduled to take place yesterday, 13 April. In a press statement published in London today, Dr. Sha'th attributed the recent events in the occupied territories to the stalemated peace process and the loss of its credibility.

Dr. Sha'th said these events signal the importance of expediting the peace process. He indicated that the longer the parties take to arrive at positive results on the ground through the peace process, the more acts of violence we will see between the two sides.

Urayqat Holds Israel Responsible for Violence

JN1404192194 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has held Israel fully responsible for the escalation of acts of violence in the occupied territories. In a statement last night, 'Urayqat was quoted as saying that the acts of violence are generated by the Israeli occupation troops' daily massacres targeting the Palestinian people. He stressed that ending the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories and halting the Israeli Army's acts of terrorism is the only way to end the acts of violence.

Gaza Fatah Official on Relations With Hamas

TA1504113794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Apr 94 p 13

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, "prominent Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip," by Aharon Klein on 13 April; place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Klein] How will you deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] when you take over control of Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Zayidah] The Israelis attribute terror attacks, car bombs, and stabbings to Hamas and think that all its members are the same. However, the truth is that not everybody in Hamas thinks the same way or has the same logic and views about the near future. There are many moderate people among them, who believe in a modus vivendi with the Palestinian rule, similar to that of the Islamic movements in the Arab countries, such as Jordan. These people have got nothing to do with terror attacks, but they represent Hamas.

[Klein] Nevertheless, how will you prevent Hamas from setting out on attacks from the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

[Abu-Zayidah] The Palestinian side will not allow car bombs or any other attacks to set out from the Gaza Strip. Both sides, the Palestinian and the Israeli, will try to prevent it.

[Klein] Has Hamas given you any indication that it wants to take part in the process? Palestinian sources claim that Fatah and Hamas men met on Monday in an apartment in Gaza and that they secretly decided to integrate Hamas in the Palestinian police force, which will also include 2,000 inhabitants of the territories.

[Abu-Zayidah] They want to take part in it. They do not reject it. However, their integration in the Palestinian police force has both its advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is that the police force would be representing everybody and not just Fatah. The disadvantage is that they might use their jobs to smuggle weapons and pass on information against the Palestinian rule in the Gaza Strip.

[Klein] How much support do you think Fatah could muster in the territories?

[Abu-Zayidah] It is all a matter of economic success; of getting a democratic Palestinian rule established and of successfully solving economic problems. Fatah may very well enjoy the support of 90 percent of the population if it succeeds, and of 30 percent if it fails. Everything depends on how we go about translating the transfer of rule to us into action. [passage omitted]

Peres' Warning on Fatah-Hamas Ties Criticized

JN1504095394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 28

[Text] Occupied Gaza—Quds Press—A senior official at the PLO office in Gaza has criticized Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' warning against rapprochement between the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah)—the PLO's main group which supports the peace process—and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) which opposes the Palestinian self-rule accord.

Rashid Abu-Shibak, coordinator of the Palestinian police and the Israeli Army forces' activities in the occupied Gaza Strip said that the issue of rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas Movements is an internal issue that concerns only us as Palestinians and does not concern any other party. He added: Our decision to cooperate is an objective and unquestionable decision of our own.

Officials from Fatah and Hamas held a meeting in Gaza last week to solve problems and differences between the two movements in the Gaza Strip. After news of this meeting was revealed the day before yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres addressed a warning over Israeli radio that if rapprochement takes place between the two biggest organizations in the Palestinian arena, then it will be impossible to reach a peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Hamas Urges Dialogue Among Palestinian Forces

JN1504103894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 21

[Text] Gaza—Quds Press—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has called for a comprehensive dialogue among the Palestinian forces in order to prevent internal conflict among the Palestinians.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Movement's leaders in the Gaza Strip, told a Quds Press correspondent that the Palestinian leaderships must hold a dialogue in order to avoid any conflicts that could arise among the Palestinians after the implementation of the agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho. However, he denied reports that coordination between Hamas and the PLO leadership had begun. He accused what he called "some parties to the Oslo agreement" of trying to give the impression through press statements on these [coordination] meetings that there was some sort of political flirtation going on between parties that support and parties that oppose the present settlement.

The Palestinian spokesman said that the Hamas Movement will not at all take part in the elections of a self-rule authority or in the self-rule parliament and administration. However, he explained that the Movement will take part in all the popular elections which serve the masses such as municipalities and professional unions.

Alliance of Palestinian Forces To Meet in Damascus

JN1404120694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 28

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] will begin meetings in Damascus on 20 April. The APF includes 10 Palestinian organizations which oppose the Oslo and Cairo agreements and all the resulting arrangements, including arrangements to implement Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. The Alliance also includes such organizations as the Islamic Hamas Movement, which rejects the achievement of a political solution or any peace with Israel.

AL-DUSTUR private sources said that the APF organizations, which met in the Libyan capital Tripoli last month under the auspices of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, have become closer than ever before. This is especially true since they feel that the PLO leadership, which is negotiating with Israel over self-rule arrangements, has overlooked the issue of returning deportees and releasing detainees. The PLO leadership is listening to Israeli conditions which demand that the Palestinian self-rule authority bans activities by Hamas, the largest of the 10 APF organizations.

These sources said that the 10 organizations, which will discuss the APF's bylaws, began to prepare their ideas for the next stage of struggle in light of developments in the Palestinian arena. They also began to formulate a

popular and organizational action plan inside and outside the occupied territories. According to these organizations, this plan should foil the mission of the Palestinian self-rule authority and thwart the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

For his part, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official Hamas spokesman in Jordan, said that Israel will not give the Palestinians anything and that the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories are now more prepared for a militant confrontation with the Israeli enemy. This comes at a time when there are reports of strong indignation within the Palestinian political circles.

Opposition Memo Rejects Commitment to Agreements

TA1304174694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[Text] Cairo—AL-NAHAR has learned that a memorandum drawn up by a number of leading West Bank and Gaza Strip figures. These representatives of the residents of the occupied territories declare their noncommitment to any agreements that will be signed regarding Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. This memorandum will soon be presented to the United Nations and the envoys of various countries in Jerusalem. According to the Palestinian sources who provided this information, the initiative for this memorandum came from Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and some West Bank and Gaza Strip mayors.

The memorandum is expected to include many names since it enjoys the support of all Palestinian opposition organizations in addition to the People's Party and some Fatah figures.

The memorandum was drawn up in the wake of the immense pressure that Israel is exerting on the PLO in the negotiations in a bid to obtain further concessions, not to mention the Israeli practices on the ground against Palestinians, such as the recent closure imposed on the occupied territories.

Islamic Jihad Accuses Israel of Endangering Peace

LD1404185594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine—al-Aqsa battalions has stated that the Israeli Government would be responsible for any failure of the peace process. Israel's prevarication and refusal once again to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho within the period ending 13 April was a blatant breach and a scandalous, open violation of the bases of the Declaration of Principles agreement signed in Washington between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

In a press statement by its chief amir and Abu-'Abdallah Fa'iz al-'Aswad, its official spokesman in the occupied territories yesterday, the movement added: The procrastination of the Israeli side, which is not implementing the withdrawal by the set date, will lead to further deterioration of the situation in the occupied land. Consequently, the Rabin government will be responsible for the developments which will result from the nonimplementation of the mechanisms of the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine further said that the escalation of terrorist acts by the settlers and the troops of occupation, the sealing off of the occupied territories, and the imposition of a military and economic blockade on the children of our Palestinian people would not weaken their determination to persevere in their legitimate right to rebel, rise, and fight the Israeli occupying enemy until the recovery of their legitimate national rights. Namely, their right to return and the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Activist Blames Israeli Practices for Attack

TA1304163694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] For a local Palestinian reaction to the Hadera attack, reporter Mark Weiss spoke with Ghassan al-Khatib from the Palestinian People's Party:

[Begin al-Khatib recording] Well, first of all I feel that this is an expected and unfortunate natural reaction to the kind of policies and practices the Israeli settlers and Army has been practicing against the Palestinian people almost on daily basis. Of course, I feel sorry for the killing of any human being, including the persons that were killed in Hadera. But we have to go beyond just expressing feelings and see exactly why has this been happening and what is the way to overcome it. I think that it is happening because of the frustration people are feeling as a result of the occupation practices and as a result of the lack of progress in the peace process. The only way to get out of this circle of blood is simply to advance the peace process on a fair basis, and second, that Israel should modify its practices and policies in the occupied territories in order to reduce the tension and the frustration among the Palestinian people. [end recording]

'Arafat Receives European Union Ambassadors

LD1404183994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon received the three ambassadors of the the European Union—the troika—led by the Greek ambassador, Konstandinos Theodhorakis. During the meeting, they discussed the situation resulting from the arrival of 13 April without the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement. The Israeli withdrawal from

Gaza and Jericho that was expected to take place was delayed due to Israeli obstructions and procrastination.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar explained the importance of the implementation of Resolution 904 to provide international protection for our Palestinian people starting with Hebron. He said: We insist on the presence of the European Union within international protection, especially since we are dealing with it on the economic front as the European Union, in addition to the participation of the two peace conference co-sponsors, the Scandinavian countries and Egypt.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar thanked friendly Greece for the financial aid it had presented to the Palestinian police force. Furthermore, the ambassadors of the European Union stressed the importance of the European Union's presence as a union among the international [protection team], and welcomed the participation of some of the member-countries of the union as a first step in the international presence. The meeting also reviewed matters of common concern with the European Union.

'Arafat Receives Argentine Foreign Minister

LD1304182994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday evening received Mr. Guido di Tella, Argentine foreign minister. The minister conveyed to brother Abu-'Ammar the greetings of Mr. Carlos Menem, president of Argentina.

During this meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Brother president Abu-'Ammar highlighted the dangers of Israel's resorting to procrastination and delay, and failure to abide by the times agreed upon for the implementation [of the Gaza-Jericho agreement]—particularly since today is 13 April—and the resulting serious repercussions on the whole peace process.

During the meeting, they also discussed issues of mutual interest to the two countries. The minister gave the brother president a message containing the Argentine Government's decision to open up Palestinian representation in Buenos Aires.

Commentary: Violence 'Natural' Over Settlement Issue

LD1404224094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Neither Rabin nor the U.S. White House understood the massacre at al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron very well and accurately; otherwise, the U.S. Administration would not have brought the Security Council to a standstill for over two weeks, during which it paralyzed it, coerced it, fettered its will, and abstained from voting on the preamble of the resolution. Neither would Rabin have done as he pleased when he refrained from transferring 400 settlers from within the town of Hebron to where they should be transferred one day with other settlers. The issue of the settlers and the settlements needs to be resolved in order to ensure a successful settlement.

Since the settlers perpetrated the massacre, although they are not alone in this, this issue has become urgent and the transfer of the settlers should now be deemed more important than anything else, in order to give peace a better chance. The number of settlers in the heart of the town of Hebron is inferior to the number of victims who were killed or injured during [the massacre]. This means that Rabin was not serious when dealing with the causes, effects, and consequences of this massacre.

Consequently, the violence that is now continuing is natural and will remain so, because its causes and justifications can be easily found in this official Israeli violence and in the violence of the settlers towards the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip, particularly towards Jerusalem and Hebron. Sadness and anger are useless and they do not mean anything it. The expression of this sadness and anger is a cajolery [as heard] which is of no use to the Israelis in the same way as it does not console the Palestinians. The occupation is continuing and the defense of 400 settlers in the town of Hebron allows Rabin to think that the Bank and the Strip and the Palestinian people can be appropriated. Therefore, he goes ahead and closes Hebron, seals off the Bank and lays siege to and starves these Palestinian people to whom the negotiations offer no bread, no security, and not even tranquillity.

Nobody supports terrorism, but it is unacceptable to everyone and to human conscience that our people remain subjected to terrorism and that the experiments of violence and racism are carried out against them. It is also unacceptable to expect them to remain silent and calm. Our people have the right to resist.

The U.S. Administration should clearly realize that any mishandling can only result in violence. The U.S. Administration and Rabin now have to handle matters on the basis of the principles and good intentions required by the peace process. The first of which being the removal of all the explosive fuses every time a fuse appears to be endangering this process in its entirety.

Algeria

Socialist Front Leader on Conditions for Civil War

BR1504103194 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 14-20 Apr pp 36-37

[Interview with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of Algeria's Socialist Forces Front, by Jean-Paul Mari; place and date not given: "The Third Way Is Our Only Hope"]

[Text] [Mari] Is violence continuing to gain ground in Algeria?

[Ait-Ahmed] Yes, since the interruption of the electoral process two years ago, violence has progressively extended to most parts of the country. For the last three days, the army has surrounded and cut off the town of Larbaa, and there are very severe skirmishes. Rockets and artillery are in use throughout the region between Bouira, Boumerdes and Blida. On the coast, the Delys region has been encircled for three days and villages have been shelled. These are no longer police operations but real battles. On the Islamic side, they are moving away slightly from the strategy of individual attempts toward a concentration of veritable army units which are springing up everywhere in the country. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) and the MIA (Armed Islamic Movement) are clearly out to provoke the collapse of what remains of the state and to get the whole population to change sides psychologically.

[Mari] One remains stupefied at the level of brutality which has now been reached in Algeria.

[Ait-Ahmed] The excesses, and the acts of barbarism on both sides are... senseless! Algeria is prey to a veritable throat- cutting syndrome. It is the result of what I would call a "private war." On the one hand, in the name of Algeria and a type of nationalistic integrationism, those in power are fighting to maintain themselves in power, to preserve their privileges and to last. On the other side the Islamists want, in the name of God, to take power and monopolize it, just like the present regime.

[Mari] Are we moving towards civil war?

[Ait Ahmed] The ingredients for this civil war are there. Violence, popular despair, economic and social conditions, the current impasse, and then, in the future, the consequences of the plan imposed by the IMF... everything is contributing to exacerbating the situation. But let us be clear: we are not as far as one part of the population having taken up arms against the other; we are not yet in a civil war. Moreover, the present situation cannot be reduced to this type of bipolar confrontation: army against Islamists. One is condemned to understand nothing in Algeria if one forgets a major political fact: The population is revolted and powerless, but does not want to go on being the hostage of this violence. Whatever the efforts of one side or the other, the overwhelming majority of Algerians have so far refused to tip into one camp. Since the coup d'etat, all attempts by those in power to involve the population at its sides have failed. But, just after the first round of the elections, hundreds of thousands of people marched through the streets of Algiers shouting "No police state, no Islamic state!" Today we could add: no civil war.

[Mari] Do Algerians today still have a choice between a policy of total security [politique du tout-securitaire] and an Islamic republic?

[Ait-Ahmed] Algerians are retreating in on themselves and on their distress. Hoping that both groups realize that they cannot win. When we, the FFS (Socialist Forces Front), call for political opening, it is to permit this overwhelming majority to express itself, and to take its destiny in its own hand. This third way represents the only hope for the Algerian people.

[Mari] Right now, we hear only the noise of arms and declarations of war. Where are the forces of this third way?

[Ait-Ahmed] It is not because they are silent that these forces do not exist. They do exist! In the administration, the trade unions, other associations, in all the parties and even inside the army. It is all these forces which I wish to address, in order to form a "cross-party" movement, a democratic pole. Otherwise, if the total-security-policy disaster continues, we will end up with direct negotiations between those in power and the integrationists.

[Mari] With the danger of a military-Islamic power?

[Ait-Ahmed] With, just like in Iran, a power which cares nothing for the will of the people. If we are calling for openness, it is because we are persuaded that these forces, which are in the majority, are able to create a dynamism capable of reducing the extremists on both sides to their proper levels of importance.

[Mari] Can one discuss with the Islamists? And how far can one go without opening up the way towards an Islamic republic for them?

[Ait-Ahmed] One initial and elementary observation: the pursuit of total security is the pre-eminent road to bring the integrationists to power! For the last two years, we have not ceased to strengthen the mechanisms of repression. And what do we see? The Islamists are getting stronger. Second observation: the dialog is difficult, of course. But it was easier two years ago. The best way of avoiding violence was not to begin it! Every day which passes, every drop of blood which is shed complicates the situation. In the heat of action, we increase the amounts at stake. Today the breach is narrow, but we have to widen it!

[Mari] What must those in power do?

[Ait-Ahmed] Open up the political field. Now.

[Mari] Legalize the FIS [Islamic Front]?

[Ait-Ahmed] Yes! Why not? It is necessary to take appeasement measures: freeing political prisoners, ending condemnations, torture, closing of the camps in the South...

[Mari] Free Ali Belhadj and Abassi Madani? Issue an amnesty?

[Ait-Ahmed] Yes for Belhadj and Madani. I would not go as far as talking of general amnesty. In any event, the country needs shock treatment. And not homeopathic treatment. In particular if, as the FIS maintains, certain detainees freed from the camps have been killed on their return. In short, we are not in an appeasement situation. On the contrary, reprisals and acts of horror are continuing. On both sides. It is important to take concrete measures, and turn the page on confrontation.

[Mari] This opinion is not shared by the RCD [expansion unknown], whose leader has just called for "armed resistance."

[Ait-Ahmed] I do not believe it is shared by the Algerian people.

[Mari] The fact remains that time is short.

[Ait-Ahmed] Yes indeed! We are now in a race against the clock. There is too much blood. Too much blood! The situation can become inextricable. It is a question of months, perhaps weeks.

[Mari] You are not in Algeria, but in Switzerland. Certain people criticize you for this. It is possible to lead a political combat today outside the country?

[Ait-Ahmed] I am not resolved to be a political exile. But staying there after the coup d'etat, Boudiaf's murder, and the closing of the democratic arena, was to fall into the hands of the regime. Moreover, I am not a Zorro, neither am I a dictator. I have a party, a party management which works, and with which I am in daily contact. But I am a person who acts responsibly. If a "fatal accident" were to happen to me in Algeria, what would be the reaction of the part of the population which supports me? I do not want to risk that. But I assure you that I shall rush back to Algeria at the smallest sign of democratization!

[Mari] You come originally from Kabylia, where your party has a strong presence. For certain people, this region is a haven of peace, for others, it is being put to fire and the sword. What is the situation in Kabylia?

[Ait-Ahmed] Kabylia is first of all a region of Algeria which is experiencing all the problems of Algeria. Plus that of cultural exclusion. Since 1963, our party has been doing everything possible to prevent this political vacuum, which has allowed integrationism to gain a foothold elsewhere. Our cultural demands are made within the framework of the Algerian nation. There is just one nation, the Algerian nation. Politically, Kabylia, along with other regions, is supporting by all means a national project. The blockages which the authorities have placed on political activity is exacerbating tensions. And the danger is of either withdrawing into oneself or going off course into violence. It is certain that the "eradicators" would like to tip this region into their camp, just as the integrationists are fully aware of Kabylia's importance on the political chessboard.

[Mari] And on 20 April, in a week, the anniversary of the "Berber spring".

[Ait-Ahmed] We will be holding a demonstration, like we did last January, but this time at Algiers, again with the same theme: demand for cultural recognition and peace. I do not want certain people eventually trying to put Kabylia off course into a situation of violence, by attempting to distort the Kabyl people's democratic opposition to the present regime, transforming it into a Kabyl combat against the Islamists. That would be extremely serious. I cannot keep silent about the consequences of the resulting confrontation. Do not forget that there are Kabyls throughout the country. Of course, mountain people are full of common sense, with their heads firmly on their shoulders. But we are afraid of spectacular provocations. It is also to defuse this situation that I am speaking today.

[Mari] Can and should France play a role? Or is it condemned to keep silent?

[Ait-Ahmed] It is clear that Algeria's problems have to be settled by Algerians. But the international community cannot disinterest itself from the fate of human rights in Algeria. Without counting the threat of destabilization throughout the Maghreb. No western country can be indifferent to this. What shocks and revolts us is that governments have fallen into the trap of bipolarization, ignoring the population and democratic forces. The fact is that we are there, that we are fighting, and that we are carrying the word into the popular quarters, where those in power do not even dare set foot. The people, democratic forces, need support.

[Mari] When one sees how events have accelerated in recent years, and observes the gap which is widening, in the last two years, at a dizzying pace..., is it not already too late?

[Ait-Ahmed] I do not believe in the fatality of the worst. Nothing is lost. Algerians are built in such a way—which is something I witnessed immediately after the war of independence—that they can be very hard at the time and, later, forget any idea of revenge. Algerians are a generous people. Perhaps too the experience of the past two years has made people wiser. The "knife-edge"" situation could make us wiser. So that we do not fall into civil war.

Criticizes French Attitude to Country

LD1404202194 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] In Algeria the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front, is pleased with the change of prime minister. Rabah Kebir,

the FIS representative in exile, believes that the replacement of Mr. Redha Malek by Mr. Mokdad Sifi—a relatively unknown technocrat—is a positive act in the framework of the search for a negotiated solution. Rabah Kebir also claimed that contacts were continuing between Lamine Zeroual, the head of state, and the imprisoned FIS leaders.

Is this dialogue not likely to be held at the expense of the traditional parties? That will mean forgetting the large proportion of the people who reject the choice between the Army and the fundamentalists, and who also reject civil war. That is the opinion of Hocine Ait-Ahmed, the chairman of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], who held a news conference in Paris yesterday. Mr. Ait-Ahmed also believes that France is not condemning the repression in Algeria strongly enough. His words were recorded by Farida Ayari:

[Begin Ait-Ahmed recording] I think France has adopted an attitude of the least possible criticism with regard to what is happening in our country, in particular, as far as repression is concerned. We would like it to raise its voice about violations of human rights.

Then, since Algeria is the keystone of the Maghreb as a whole, I do not think anyone will fail to see that the only highway the fundamentalists can use to achieve power is to continue down the path of repression, and that if Algeria falls into the hands of armed groups, the whole of the Maghreb will be destabilized, and the security of the Mediterranean as a whole will be threatened. [end recording]

Company Receives $200 Million To Finish Pipeline

LD1404204294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Sonatrach company announced the signing of an agreement in Washington this week with a value of $200 million allocated to finish the Algerian part of the Arab Magreb gas pipeline Europe.

This is a loan agreement between the American Eximbank and Sonatrach and a loan agreement between Sonatrach and American Citibank. The completion of the gas pipeline also benefits from loans from European investment banks and French loans guaranteed by the groups Coface.

Egypt

Saudis, U.S. Intelligence Said Backing Terror

NC1404112994 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 10

[Interview with Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, "retired" court president and Islamic writer, by Majdi Hasanayn; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hasanayn] How would you explain Saudi criticism of you and your books, especially as the control of media organs by some Saudi circles raises questions?

[Al-'Ashmawi] Saudi Arabia, in the Arab and Islamic countries, follows the same method that Zionism used to control the economy, media, and press of the United States and Europe. With this, Saudi Arabia seeks to control the minds, eyes, and ears of the Arab nation, with particular interest in Egypt. So it buys people to use against Egypt, whether directly or indirectly, particularly to promote the Wahhabite doctrine in Egypt.

[Hasanayn] Does this mean we are living the Saudi era and that Egypt's role and leadership have shrunk?

[Al-'Ashmawi] I cannot say that Egypt has lost its role. But we notice this Saudi trend of trying to control the affairs of the Arab world, particularly Egypt, whether by buying writers or exploiting institutions and maneuvering them from behind the stage.

[Hasanayn] We seek to establish sound inter-Arab relations that can enable us to face world challenges. But are Saudi hands financing terrorism in Egypt?

[Al-'Ashmawi] No question. Clearly, some Saudi circles and individuals finance terrorism in Egypt and support some preachers here and there. I believe the Egyptian Government knows of this and occasionally tries to draw Saudi officials' attention to the issue calmly. But Saudi Arabia tries to clear itself of this charge by claiming that the financing comes from the private sector. Some people wonder about this because in Saudi Arabia there is no private or public sector. A recent announcement regarding a Bin-Ladin family member who lives in Sudan and who is accused of financing terrorism and the naming of three Ladin sons who work in a private security firm that tried to infiltrate Egyptian security are the best proof that what I am saying is true.

I could confirm that there is covert cooperation among Saudi Arabia, U.S. intelligence, and Israeli intelligence—whether Saudi Arabia knows of the consequences of this or not—to finance terrorism in Egypt and throughout the region. Foreign magazines have published reports that U.S. intelligence financed over 100 Islamic conferences attended by extremists. In collaboration with the Mosad, U.S. intelligence encouraged the extremist movements, which are called Islamic, to promote Islamic nationalism to counter pan-Arabism. Some continue to encourage extremists in Egypt with a view to weakening it for the next 10 years. From their point of view, this will be enough to virtually freeze its role as a leading country in the region for over a century. [passage omitted]

[Hasanayn] Some people believe the confrontation with Israel as the main enemy of the Arab nation must be based on the religious state, as is the case with Israel itself. How do you view this issue?

[Al-'Ashmawi] I mentioned before in my book *Political Islam* that the establishment of the State of Israel was one of the most important causes behind the spread of extremism in Egypt and the Arab world. But I hope it is now understood that Islamic extremism serves Israel's goals by distorting the image of Islam and weakening the Egyptian state, the natural leader of the Arab nation. The cultural way is the right course for confronting the State of Israel. The struggle between us and Israel is not a fundamentalist one. It is a cultural one. If we do not master every factor of culture, then Israel will win. I stress that Islamic extremism is enhancing Israel's position in the world and giving it the golden opportunity to distort Islam and make Egypt backward.

[Hasanayn] What is your view of the slogans of freedom and democracy that some of political Islam's groups are raising and that are demanding that authority be rotated through free elections?

[Al-'Ashmawi] They claim this because most Arab and Islamic governments are totalitarian. These groups seek to attract the ordinary people and the opposition to their ranks. They also want to address foreign circles and international human rights organizations. But they want democracy to destroy democracy through democracy and spoil freedom through freedom. For these groups, democracy means one voice for one man and once only. When they attain power, they will eliminate every democratic movement, because their nature is totalitarian, not democratic. They believe sovereignty does not belong to the people and that the people have no right to legislate for themselves. These are antidemocratic views. This was declared by Ali Belhadj, the second man in the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria, after the first round of elections, when he said democracy is blasphemy. This compelled the Algerian Army to confront the FIS outside the framework of democracy, which the FIS believes to be blasphemy. In Egypt, the religious extremist leaders have often said that democracy is blasphemy. Dozens of leaflets are found on the pavements confirming this. When they talk of democracy, they are voicing that which they do not believe in and following the method of al-Taqiyyah, which is one of the pillars of the Shiite sect [allowing followers to hide their religion to escape persecution], to which the groups of political Islam resort. [passage omitted]

Asyut Governor Interviewed on Terrorism

NC1404123794 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 6

[Interview with Asyut Governor Major General Samih al-Sa'id by Sami Fahmi in Asyut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Fahmi] What is the reason for the rising wave of terrorism in Asyut?

[Al-Sa'id] The tightening security fist in Asyut and the tightening noose around the terrorists have led the latter to resort to desperate terrorist operations. What is happening in Asyut is similar to swatting a "wasp's nest," when the wasps get irritated they will try anything. Everyone should know that Asyut is now different than it used to be. The Islamic groups do not hold activities in al-Rahmah Mosque, not even weekly seminars. Extremist activities have been brought under control. There are no longer marches like the ones that were staged during the Night of Revelation or during the nights that mark the first day of each Hegira month.

[Fahmi] Does this mean that the security forces start "the action?"

[Al-Sa'id] The security organ is in control of the situation. I do not know what you mean by the word "action."

[Fahmi] I mean the security organ takes the initiative by raiding the extremists and the terrorist moves are merely a "reaction."

[Al-Sa'id] What the terrorists are now doing is the result of their bankruptcy.

[Fahmi] How do you explain the calm in the governorates neighboring Asyut (al-Minya, Suhaj) and the inflamed situation in Asyut?

[Al-Sa'id] There are historic factors to consider. We cannot ignore the fact that the Islamic groups were first formed in Asyut University in the late 1970's and this helped them spread. There are also differences between the Islamic groups. Some of the terrorist elements that are carrying out terrorist acts in Asyut come from Suhaj, al-Wadi al-Jadid, and al-Minya.

[Fahmi] What helped the Islamic groups spread in the 1970's, as you mentioned? Was there official support?

[Al-Sa'id] I cannot answer because I was abroad at the time.

[Fahmi] Are the security organs, with their present resources and power, capable of dealing with terrorism?

[Al-Sa'id] The security forces are in control of the situation all over the governorate. The security fist is not concentrating on one area at the expense of another. Security measures are being tightened everywhere. The security organs are capable of handling this, but the support of the people is necessary. The government is meeting the Interior Ministry's demands within the limits of available resources. [passage omitted]

[Fahmi] Does the situation in Asyut require the armed forces' help to safeguard the vital installations?

[Al-Sa'id] The vital installations are secured according to specific guidelines. There is the popular defense, which plays a role in defending the installations. The military counselor in the governorate leads the popular defense operations in accordance with established plans and targets.

[Fahmi] Some people are saying that armed forces' intervention might be necessary to control the explosive situation.

[Al-Sa'id] It is my personal view that we will not reach this point. I have great hopes for the popular action that is confronting terrorism and the support being given to the security forces in Asyut so that the situation will be decided in favor of society's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Israeli Delegation Leaves Cairo for Oman

NC1504094394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—A large Israeli delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin left Cairo this morning after a stopover at Cairo Airport en route from Tel Aviv to Muscat on a first visit by an Israeli delegation to a Gulf state.

The delegation will participate in meetings of the Water Committee of the multilateral talks due to open in Oman on Sunday.

Commentary Voices 'Optimism' Over Rabin's Remarks

NC1404171794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Is There a Cure to the Pains of a Slow but Jittery Peace Process?"]

[Text] Escalation in Palestinian-Israeli violence over the past few weeks and the clear defiance with which both sides greeted security measures and precautions are, undeniably, a consequence of the Hebron massacre. Defiance of security measures and precautions was noticeable in both the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Two bus attacks in Israel—the most recent one yesterday, left six dead and many wounded—may give fodder to the pro-Israeli propaganda machine. Despite that, a careful analysis of the consequences of the Hebron massacre reveals a worrying fact. Extremists on both sides are currently trying to take the law in their own hands and impose their antipeace agenda on everyone else.

The escalation in violence and bloodshed may at first glance appear to be a direct consequence of the Hebron massacre. But a deeper and more worrying reason is in play. The peace process has had a rough ride, not least because of the lack of commitment to the dates stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

It is no secret to anyone following the scene closely that the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho agreement failed to satisfy a significant segment of Palestinian and Arab public opinion, due to their failure to satisfy some Palestinian demands.

Still, we have to remember that the existing agreement was just a starting point and that what matters is what follows this agreement in terms of comprehensive self-rule and the final status of the occupied territories.

The Israeli side has introduced certain complications that resulted in the failure to meet the proposed date of full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho: Wednesday 13 April, yesterday. It came and went without the withdrawal having even begun.

This and other factors combined to produce the recent deterioration in the situation and to endanger the entire peace process. The peace process is in danger. Its jitters are due partly to the slow pace with which it is proceeding and partly to the fact that doubts about Israel's intentions are reaching a higher and more worrying plateau.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres promised, after the distressing bus attack in Israel two days ago, that they will not allow such incidents to hinder the peace process. Earlier, Prime Minister Rabin made a statement to the effect that no dateline is sacred concerning the practical steps involved in the peace process.

At a time when matters have come to a head, it would be wrong to question the integrity of either side. But recent events, the general climate of the peace process, and the differences facing the implementation of the existing agreements are a cause for doubts, justified or imagined.

Despite that, there are other statements by the Israeli prime minister disseminated in the media today. These statements are extremely important and give cause for some optimism amid the discouragement created by the recent acts of mutual violence and fomented by the slow and unsure pace of Palestinian-Israeli talks. Most important of the Israeli prime minister's remarks, which he made in a press interview, is his expression of willingness to remove the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in return for a final agreement with the Palestinians. Rabin, however, pointed out that the security of the settlements should be guaranteed during the self-rule period.

This Israeli statement leaves one question unanswered, however. Can guarantees for the security of the settlements be reconciled with the Palestinians' exercise of the self-rule authority in the commonly accepted sense of the word?

Having said all this, we wish to make it clear that there is a dire need for a faster pace, a stronger commitment, and clearer positions on all tracks of the peace process.

Libyan Envoy Meets Musa, Comments on 'Crisis' With West

NC1404122194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Libya's envoy to the Arab League, Ibrahim al-Bishari.

Afterward, al-Bishari stated that they discussed bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of common interest within the framework of the excellent ties between Egypt and Libya.

On the Libyan-Western crisis, al-Bishari said Libya regrets the Security Council's renewal of the unfair sanctions imposed on it in accordance with Resolution 748.

The Libyan envoy added that the Arab League is undertaking an Arab initiative based on the resolution issued at the last meeting of the Arab League Council. He said that if this initiative is accepted, it will lead to a response to Security Council Resolution 731, will satisfy the judicial cooperation involving all the parties, will protect the rights of everyone, including the Western countries, and will protect Libya's right and sovereignty.

He noted that the initiative calls for the trial of the defendants in accordance with Scottish law and before a Scottish court sitting in the International Court of Justice. He said: We have not yet heard the West's official view of this proposal. He expressed the hope that this proposal would be taken seriously and objectively because it would be a way out for everyone. He said the Arab League secretary general has conveyed the Arab initiative to the ambassadors of the three Western countries.

Foreign Ministry Voices 'Grave Concern' for Rwanda

NC1404113494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is following events in Rwanda with grave concern and deep regret, especially because of the hardships faced by the fraternal Rwandan people as security deteriorates. President Mubarak is motivated by close Egyptian-Rwandan ties and his position as chairman of the OAU.

The remarks came in a statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today.

The statement announced that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa communicated with OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim on the possible steps the OAU can take to contain the deteriorating situation in Rwanda.

The statement reported that the committee in charge of solving inter-African disputes will meet in Addis Ababa today chaired by an Egyptian representative to discuss the dangerous events in Rwanda.

The statement continued: The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt appeals to all Rwandan parties to exercise self-restraint, accept an immediate cease-fire, and create the appropriate conditions for relief organizations to carry out their humanitarian mission. It also urges these parties to immediately resume their efforts to implement the Arosha Agreement so as to attain stability and peace in the country.

The Egyptian ambassador and Embassy staff in Kigali have been instructed to leave Rwanda temporarily in light of the dangers they are facing there and the extreme deterioration in security.

Equatorial Guinean Minister Leaves Cairo

NC1504104494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Miguel Oyono Ndong, Equatorial Guinean minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this morning after a visit to Egypt of several days, during which he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Equatorial Guinea's president. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Views Talks With World Bank

NC1404164994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi announced today in statements to reporters that the talks the Egyptian economic delegation, headed by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, is holding with officials of the World Bank in Washington have made some positive progress as regards cooperation between Egypt and the World Bank to finance a number of big projects in the fields of production, infrastructure, and services. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said in statements he made today that the government will present to the People's Assembly at the end of this month the general framework and major lists for the draft general budget of the state for the new fiscal year 1994-1995. The prime minister also announced that a body will be formed to develop the southern governorates of Upper Egypt in implementation of President Husni Mubarak's directives. This body will assume the task of following up on the social and economic development of the Governorates of Asyut, Suhaj, Qina, Aswan, and al-Wadi al-Jadid. In addition, a higher committee will be formed for developing Sinai, turning it into a tourist area, and encouraging industrial and agricultural areas, as well as free zones.

Minister on Dual Taxation Accords, State Budget

NC1504104694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz has said that 30 agreements have been signed with other countries to avoid dual taxation.

In a statement to MENA, he said discussion is under way to sign agreements between Egypt and Indonesia and Singapore on avoiding dual taxation to consolidate relations and economic ties. He added that the agreement concluded on Tuesday with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and signed by the UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, Ahmad Bin-Humayyid

al-Tayir, is one of the most modern examples of agreements on avoiding dual taxation and dealing with every means of handling taxes on sources of income.

Al-Razzaz said the Finance Ministry will submit the draft state budget for 1994-95 to the People's Assembly at the end of April to be debated by the Assembly in May, adding that it will come into force on 1 July.

He said the preliminary estimates for the budget this year amount to 83 billion pounds and that the value of wages is approximately 12.8 billion pounds, a 2.2 billion-pound-increase on the current fiscal year, which ends at the end of June. The target budget deficit is 4.2 percent. Inflation is 2.8 percent and state revenues amount to 40.3 billion pounds, a 15-percent-increase on the previous year.

Libya

Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Eritrea

LD1404131794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Apr—In consolidation of the relations of brotherhood between the two brotherly peoples, the Great Jamahiriyah and the State of Eritrea have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations between them at brotherhood bureau and embassy level.

Morocco

Declaration Adopted at Uruguay Round Meeting

Malaysian Minister Delivers Address

BK1404130094 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia will continue its unilateral liberalization policy in the financial services sector at a pace dictated by the national policy objectives to ensure foreign participation. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said Malaysia's offer of financial services was significant given the already high foreign presence in financial services sector. She said this was a result of Malaysia's unilateral liberalization measure, implemented even before the Uruguay Round talks.

She made those remarks at the Marrakech ministerial meeting on the Uruguay Round talks in Marrakech last night. About 120 trade ministers from around the world have gathered in the Moroccan city to sign a landmark agreement on the final act of the trade talks, [words indistinct] of agreement. Malaysia [words indistinct] was committed to an open and strong multilateral trading system and attached much importance to [words indistinct] multilateral trade negotiations. Datuk Sri Rafidah said the conclusion of the Uruguay Round marked another important milestone in international economic cooperation and provided the foundation for strengthening an open trading system. It is a signal to the world that multilateral [words indistinct] is a universally acceptable trading norm and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is indeed timely.

'Text' of GATT Declaration Reported

NC1504062394 Paris AFP in English 0252 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, April 15 (AFP)—Here is the full text of the Marrakesh Declaration that is to be adopted by the ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at around 1100 GMT Friday [15 April]:

Ministers salute the historic achievement represented by the conclusion of the (Uruguay) Round, which they believe will strengthen the world economy and lead to more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world. In particular, they welcome:

—the stronger and clearer legal framework they adopted for the conduct of international trade, including a more effective and reliable dispute settlement mechanism.

—the global reduction by 40 percent of tariffs and wider market-opening agreements on goods, and the increased predictability and security represented by a major expansion in the scope of tariff commitments, and

—the establishment of a multilateral framework of disciplines for trade in services and for the protection of trade-related intellectual property rights, as well as the reinforced multilateral trade provisions in agriculture and in textiles and clothing.

Ministers affirm that the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ushers in a new era of global economic cooperation, reflecting the widespread desire to operate in a fairer and more open multilateral trading system for the benefit and welfare of their peoples.

Ministers express their determination to resist protectionist pressures of all kinds. They believe that the trade liberalization and strengthened rules achieved in the Uruguay Round will lead to a progressively more open world trading environment.

Ministers undertake, with immediate effect, and until the entry into force of the WTO, not to take any trade measures that would undermine or adversely affect the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations or their implementation.

Ministers confirm their resolution to strive for greater coherence of policies in the fields of trade, money and finance, including cooperation between the WTO, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for that purpose.

Ministers welcome the fact that participation in the Uruguay Round was considerably wider than in any

previous multilateral trade negotiation and, in particular, that developing countries played a notably active role in it.

This has marked a historic step towards a more balanced and integrated global trade partnership.

Ministers note that during the period these negotiations were underway, significant measures of economic reform and autonomous trade liberalization were implemented in many developing countries and formerly centrally planned economies.

Ministers recall that the results of the negotiations embody provisions conferring differential and more favourable treatment for developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of least-developed countries.

Ministers recognize the importance of the implementation of these provisions for the least-developed countries and declare their intention to continue to assist and facilitate the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities.

They agree to keep under regular review by the Ministerial Conference and the appropriate organs of the WTO the impact of the results of the Round on the least-developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives.

Ministers recognize the need for strengthening the capability of the GATT and the WTO to provide increased technical assistance in their areas of competence, and in particular to substantially expand its provision to the least-developed countries.

Ministers declare that their signature of the "Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations" and their adoption of associated Ministerial Decisions initiates the transition from the GATT to the WTO.

They have in particular established a Preparatory Committee to lay the ground for the entry into force of the WTO Agreement and commit themselves to see to complete all steps necessary to ratify the WTO Agreement so that it can enter into force by January 1, 1995, or as early as possible thereafter.

Ministers have furthermore adopted a Decision on Trade and Environment.

Ministers express their sincere gratitude to H.M. King Hassan II for his personal contribution to the success of this Ministerial Meeting and to his government and the people of Morocco for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization they have provided.

The fact that this final Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round has been held at Marrakesh is an additional manifestation of Morocco's commitment to an open world trading system and to its fullest integration into the global economy.

With the adoption and signature of the Final Act and the opening for acceptance of the WTO Agreement, Ministers declare the work of the Trade Negotiations Committee to be complete and the Uruguay Round formally concluded.

Conference Formally Adopts Declaration

NC1504105794 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, April 15 (AFP)—The GATT ministerial conference formally adopted the Marrakesh Declaration on Friday [15 April], formally endorsing the outcome of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations.

Sudan

IGADD Meetings on Aid Suspended

EA1304210394 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The meetings of the subcommittee charged with studying ways of sending relief aid to those in need in the south under the supervision of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] Mediation Committee were suspended in Nairobi yesterday afternoon until 3 May.

The participants, who included the Sudanese Government delegation and that of the rebel movement, as well as the representatives of the four mediating IGADD states and the official in charge of Operation Lifeline Sudan, suspended the meetings after the delegation of Garang's faction refused to sign the draft agreement in its final form, having expressed some reservations. The participants in the meetings had concentrated on discussing various views on the ways by which relief aid could be dispatched to a number of areas, protecting and supervising the routes to be taken in sending the aid and vaccinating children in the south against infectious diseases.

A diplomatic source stated that the Sudanese Government delegation had shown great understanding during the negotiations on cooperating with the mediating team on most of the proposals put forward by the latter. The government delegation made it clear right from the beginning that it had no objection whatsoever to any citizen in the south being given food, irrespective of his orientation.

Delegation Issues Statement

EA1404202794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Sudanese delegation attending the meeting of the subcommittee on humanitarian affairs set up by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] today issued a statement following the end of the negotiations, which were conducted in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi 6-12 April.

The statement said that the government delegation had signed the draft agreement put forward by Operation Lifeline [Sudan] on opening peace corridors to transport relief materials and humanitarian aid, which confirmed the agreement of 23 March specifying that aid should be transported in a practical and secure manner as cheaply as possible. It also laid down that the relief aid should be sent to new destinations by air, road, river and rail, to ensure that those in need were fed regardless of what party controlled the areas in which they were present.

The statement said that Operation Lifeline officials and the IGADD committee on humanitarian affairs had succeeded in arriving at an agreement which would guarantee that those in need would receive relief materials and humanitarian aid in the combat zones. The statement went on to say that the Sudanese Government, by signing the agreement, was merely upholding its firm stance of not permitting food to be used as a weapon. The government reiterated its determination to arrive at a peaceful solution to relieve the suffering of war victims in southern Sudan, sufferings which were imposed by the rebellion.

The statement expressed the Sudanese Government's hope that the other parties also sign the agreement, stressing that the government was totally confident that the heads of state of the IGADD committee would do everything in their power as mediators to persuade the rebel movement to do its duty by signing the agreement, because political extremism and obstinacy would result in innocent civilians having to bear the consequences. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Appoints New Chief Justice Deputies

EA1404173994 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Summary] Khartoum, 14 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has appointed three deputies to the chief justice. They are: Muhammad Mahmud Abu Qusaysah, Idris al-Qurashi Ali and Jalal [al-Din] Muhammad Uthman.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Message From Yemeni President

LD1404203694 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a letter, which was handed to him at Carthage Palace this morning by Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, [Yemeni] minister [of civil service and administrative reform] and the Yemeni president's personal envoy to the president. [passage omitted]

Yahya al-'Arashi made the following statement after the meeting:

[Begin al-'Arashi recording] I was honored to meet his excellency President Zine El Abidine. I delivered a letter from his brother General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

This was an appropriate occasion to inform the president of developments in Yemen, which is going through a passing crisis, God willing, and the national efforts being currently made at the level of dialogues in order to emerge from the crisis. We appreciate every effort, including Maghreban efforts that were demonstrated in the Tunis conference and the efforts made by President Zine El Abidine to support the Yemeni cause. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

KUNA, ANSA Sign Information Protocol

LD1304194194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Rome, 13 Apr—KUNA and ANSA signed an information protocol aimed at consolidating future cooperation ties between the two agencies.

The signing of this important protocol comes within the framework of the efforts deployed by KUNA to consolidate its relations with the world news agencies to keep up with the world information progress.

The protocol has been signed by KUNA deputy director-general and editor in chief, Muhammad al-'Ujayri, and ANSA Director-General Alfredo Roma.

The information protocol provides for the exchange of information and news services between the two agencies and the provision of the necessary facilities to the correspondents of the two agencies during their coverage of important events.

The protocol also provides for the two agencies, KUNA and ANSA, to follow up the prominent developments in the two friendly countries and to cover the activities of the officials of the two countries during their official visits. [passage omitted]

The information protocol also provides for the two agencies to undertake feasibility studies to exchange bulletins, books, data, archive material and expertise in the domain of their activities for their mutual benefit.

The protocol, which consists of nine main articles, provides for the two agencies to train their employees in their respective professional spheres, with the host side bearing the costs of having trainees from the other side. The information protocol concludes that the two agencies will provide each other with photos on main events either through their own technical facilities or through the post, and this agreement is automatically renewed every year. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message From Saddam

JN1404142394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Iraqi minister of culture and information and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Hammadi conveyed to the brother Presidential Council chairman a message from his brother President Saddam Husayn dealing with the fraternal bilateral relations and issues of interest to our Arab nation. The message also dealt with the suffering of the sisterly Iraqi people as a result of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, which requires a pan-Arab position to mitigate this hard human suffering of the Iraqi children, youths, and old people due to the continued blockade, especially since Iraq has stressed its commitment to all UN resolutions, led by Resolution 687.

The brother chairman expressed our Yemeni people's solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade. He asked the Iraqi culture and information ministers to convey his greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of further progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi and Dr. Muhsin Khalil, Iraqi ambassador to our country.

YSP Official on Bombings, Assassinations

JN1504082694 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 18

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the YSP, by 'Abdallah al-Yamani; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Yamani] You have announced in the past that you were being hunted by Sanaa. Do you still have that feeling or has anything emerged from the accord document?

[Muhammad] Of course. The forces and elements that carried out bombings and assassinations are still free and unbridled. They are still tampering with the safety of the citizens. Our elements are being killed in Ta'izz, Sanaa, and some northern governorates.

[Al-Yamani] How do the Yemeni people regard the delay in implementing the document?

[Muhammad] The people are greatly worried because of the military conditions and tension and because of the security problems that have not been solved yet. The economic life has been paralyzed. Work at development projects and elsewhere is at a standstill. Frankly, the conditions are unsatisfactory to all.

[Al-Yamani] What are the causes of the armed confrontation?

[Muhammad] The other side's intransigence and the influential forces that do not want any satisfactory solution for Yemen. This intransigence and this mentality has harmed Yemen, the Yemeni unity, and the supreme interests of the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Yamani] It is rumored that the Jordanian-Omani role in pursuing efforts to implement the accord document has been abandoned now that other Arab sides have entered the arena. What do you say to that?

[Muhammad] The role of these countries has not been abandoned but there is an intensive Arab presence and the Arab brothers are asked to continue this effort because Yemen is part of the Arab homeland and Yemen's problems are the problems of the Arab nation. Helping us is a pan-Arab responsibility and it is the duty of all the Arab brothers to extricate Yemen from this crisis which threatens its democratic, unionist march.

[Al-Yamani] Will the resignation of the president solve the Yemeni crisis?

[Muhammad] The question is not under discussion now. We have not proposed the resignation yet. No political group has proposed this because we are looking for common denominators now. These things could be discussed when such thing happens. [passage omitted]

Interviewed on Jordan Visit, Saudi Talks

JN1504110394 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
16-22 Apr 94 p 12

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the YSP, by Taghrid Sa'adah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sa'adah] What is the first item on your agenda during your visit to Jordan? Do you have new proposals, especially after the failure of the Salalah meeting?

[Muhammad] Our visit to Jordan is meant to meet with His Majesty King Husayn to brief him on the latest developments in the Yemeni arena. We also want Jordan to continue its role in the military committees and in the dialogue with the political leaders, since Jordan hosted a Yemeni meeting and helped to endorse the accord document in Amman in the presence of all Yemeni parties. This obliges Yemen to brief Jordan's king, government, and people on these developments. The visit is also part of the Arab tour we have made, particularly after the Salalah meeting between the president and his deputy. [passage omitted]

[Sa'adah] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is making shuttle tours to Arab capitals. For what purpose and what proposals do you have?

[Muhammad] Any party that achieves unity cannot be seeking disunity once again. However, we are now facing a process in which unity and democracy are being buried through the annexation, and ending the existing status, of southeastern regions. The YSP is therefore concerned with rectifying the domestic and foreign situation of the unity state. The YSP's contacts with its brothers and friends abroad is meant to ensure that Yemen will continue to play its natural role, along with its Arab brothers and friends abroad, away from the atmosphere of domestic problems and the results of the Gulf war. This is as far as its responsibility as a partner in government is concerned. As for its responsibility as a party, the YSP is still responsible for part of the Yemeni homeland. The YSP has domestic and foreign contacts and no one can deny or bar this. This is a right for others as well—the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and others. They all travel on visits and have contacts. The tour of 'Ali Salim al-Bid adopted a specific formula. We are for national dialogue and the document which met 70 percent of our demands. We did not propose any view in our tour. However, we had in mind the military developments in Yemen, outlined in a report by the joint Jordanian-Omani military committee which also proposed solutions to this crisis, as well as the fact that we know and others know that the other parties do not want to, and cannot, implement the accord document. Therefore, we are only asking the Arab brothers to contribute toward solving this problem, since we are part of this nation. [passage omitted]

[Sa'adah] Why did 'Ali Salim al-Bid visit Saudi Arabia after signing the document in Amman?

[Muhammad] The visit was meant to explain the YSP's position to Saudi officials, after the other party had foiled the Amman meeting and after it had exploded the military situation in Abyan, in cooperation with the Islamic Jihad group. This was also after we made sure that the other party does not want to implement the accord, considering the conditions he set when he signed it. This prompted us to explain our position to besiege any military adventure that any party could think of. Yemeni stability is part of the stability of this region. Our region is rich in resources and the world cares about these resources. What happened during the Gulf war confirms this fact and that any party that disrupts security and stability will not be allowed to do that. [passage omitted]

[Sa'adah] It is being said now that oil is one of the reasons for the current crisis and that it is behind your desire to establish a federation. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that you are seeking to be an oil country. What is your comment?

[Muhammad] Oil was a catalyst for unity in the first place because it existed before the unity. Our regions contain oil and we know how much they contain. Therefore, we expedited our efforts for unity. However, the way some people think indicates they had contemplated annexing the southern regions on this basis.

INA Editor Views Downing of U.S. Helicopters

JN1504111394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Commenting on the downing of two foreign helicopters by U.S. aircraft in northern Iraq, the political editor of the Iraqi News Agency [INA] wrote today the following:

The downing of these two helicopters has tangibly revealed the tendentious, premeditated intentions of U.S. and Western quarters and their agents in the autonomous region.

When the incident took place, the agent quarters in the autonomous region, as well as U.S. and Western quarters, initially said that the helicopters were shot down by Iraqi aircraft. When the truth came out and it was learned that the U.S. side was the one that downed the two helicopters, those quarters remained silent and could not avoid the truth. It seems they were forced to tell the truth because those who were killed in the incident were of several nationalities so the truth could not be hidden. Therefore, their black intentions to involve Iraq in any matter were exposed.

This tendentious approach in leveling accusations against Iraq betrays premeditated intentions against Iraq. It also reveals the truth about many previous tendentious accusations regarding incidents that took place in the northern region in which Iraq was falsely accused in a tendentious, hasty manner.

Article Criticizes Clinton's Policies, 'Lies'

JN1504082994 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Clinton's Decline"]

[Text] Bill Clinton, who had seemed to to be courteous and flexible enough and about to take a more realistic approach than the bloody criminal Bush, is increasingly unmasking a face no less ugly or filthy than Bush! Clinton had set himself apart from George Bush a few hours before taking office when he said he would be prepared to engage Iraq in dialogue. His advisers had leaked suggestions he would pursue different policies toward Iraq when he assumed power.

We, therefore, feel disgust toward a man who started off with a human face but later turned into a ferocious beast! In his early youth, Clinton joined protest marches and took a hostile stand toward his country's military engagement in Vietnam. But he is now pursing even more criminal policies than Richard Nixon and stands readier than Bush to become a monkey and effect a complete aboutface.

Is there anything so base as the president of the greatest nation on Earth turning himself into a monkey that turns its backside to amuse spectators in the hope of making a dime or two? The rash and nervous Clinton of today is not the sober and cool Clinton of yesterday! One who loses one's balance and falls captive to one's passions and crises is bound to be caught up in lies and further crimes!

On the day before yesterday, he sent a new letter to the U.S. Congress's official spokesman in which he stooped even lower and repeated lies about Iraq. Clinton opened his letter by stating his extreme alarm by contradictions and the questions that remain unanswered in the area of chemical weapons. It was important, his letter said, to ensure effective and comprehensive inspection.

Clinton knows that such statements to the Congress are sheer lies, for the simple reason that the UN commission's reports, including those submitted by Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Commission, testify that Iraq has met its obligations and that the chemical weapons file is closed.

Beyond that, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid recently showed, supported by evidence and figures, that Iraq has implemented its commitments in the area of chemical weapons. Clinton and his aides have had access to these facts. To call him liar, therefore, is not to do him an injustice.

Clinton has stooped to such depths as to blackmail Ekeus into dereliction of his duties and abandonment of his convictions. The American President quotes Ekeus as saying he does not expect his report about Iraq's compliance with its commitments to be ready before the end of the year at the earliest. Clinton goes on to comment: We strongly advocate Ekeus' line and reject the drawing up of a timetable.

These statements are clearly meant to pressure and threaten Ekeus. They amount to orders as to what he should and should not do. Clinton thus chooses to forget that he is in breach of UN Security Council Resolution 687, especially Paragraph 22, which stipulates that the council will lift the sanctions once Iraq has honored its obligations, which Iraq has done, as evidenced by reports submitted by UN commissions and Ekeus himself.

Clinton goes too far with his show of his meanness, reaching the level of a professional liar. He quoted a fabricated story, previously denied by a neutral investigation conducted by a UN committee, to the effect that southern Iraq is exposed to repression. Does this mean the UN committee's investigation is based on lies? Doesn't this mean that the President of the United States is a liar? In an attempt to incite the Congress against Iraq, he spoke about investigating Iraq's war crimes and violations of human rights in Iraq. This proves once again that Clinton is not only a liar with double consciences and double standards, but that he also does not have the memory to protect him from saying anything that is easy to refute. Every day, the world discovers anew that the U.S. Administrations' crimes in the field of human rights are the worst, the meanest, in mankind's modern history. Based on U.S. information, since its

establishment the United States has carried out more than 200 large-scale military interventions against other nations and peoples, without any justification or legal right. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people died and cities and cultural sites were destroyed. Among these crude interventions were the U.S. aggression against Korea in the fifties, the aggression against Vietnam in the sixties, the aggressions against Grenada and Nicaragua in the eighties, and the aggressions against Panama, Haiti, Iraq, and Somalia in the nineties. The world is now convinced that America is the most hostile state in history, and that it has encroached the most on the most important of human rights, namely, the right to live freely in a sovereign, independent state.

Before this, the United States was the first nation in history to use, unnecessarily, a nuclear weapon that killed hundreds of thousands of people. Later, the United States was one of the most prominent states that turned its own people into guinea pigs and injected them with chemical and nuclear materials, which led to many years of torture for them, although laws prohibited the experiments.

America's record of disdain for human rights is endless. It is the country that discriminates the most against other ethnic groups and races. It even reached the point where the non-white were considered equal to dogs and animals.

So, does a state whose human rights record is this black have the right to speak about human rights and war crimes? Mankind is looking forward to the day when peoples will succeed in condemning those who were the first to use nuclear arms against people; chemical weapons against revolutionaries, freedom-loving people, and civilians; those who assassinated the leaders of liberation movements and spread vice and drugs in the world; and those who, with unmatched brutality, attacked civilian shelters and annihilated hundreds of thousands of children as a result of a shortage of medicine and malnutrition due to the blockade clamped on Iraq.

When he speaks about Iraq's Kurds, as the one who defends them, Clinton looks like a circus clown who knows he has become a means to make his viewers laugh. The whole world knows, particularly the Kurds, that the most hideous persecution the Kurds had ever been exposed to is the one taking place now under the protection and blessing of Clinton. Turkey is carrying out a war of annihilation against its Kurds with Clinton's blessings and under his protection. However, concerning Iraq's Kurds, Clinton, just as his predecessor criminal Bush, also exposes them to annihilation, but in a different way. They are suffering from starvation, a lack of security, and the deliberate spread of disease and the destruction of the unity of the family.

America's appointment of the thieves, smugglers, and killers of the Talabani and Barzani gangs, rulers of Iraq's Kurds, is in itself a systematic destruction of the Kurds' life. How can Clinton have the audacity to accuse Iraq of doing something that is a small part of what he does?

The crimes America has perpetrated, and is perpetrating, against mankind requires that international observers be appointed at the Pentagon, the U.S. State Department, and CIA headquarters, in Indian reservations, the black cities, and the quarters of Hispanics exposed to ethnic and economic persecution and social discrimination.

Clinton told Congress that "the Security Council member states are unanimous that Iraq has not complied with Security Council resolutions." Clinton's statement contradicts UN and other reports that made the international community change its attitude. This change was even apparent at the Security Council, when three permanent member states and eight nonpermanent member states, including some U.S. allies, have acknowledged that Iraq has largely complied with UN resolutions.

Is there a fool in the whole world who would believe this nonsense? Is Clinton unaware that most nations now understand Iraq's view and are uncomfortable with U.S. custodianship?

Speaking about the embargo, moreover, Clinton said: "The Iraqi Government distributes humanitarian supplies to its supporters and to the Army." This contradicts hard reality that supplies reach even the isolated autonomous region. This also contradicts international and U.S. reports prepared by committees that visited Iraq and admired the ration card system as a comprehensive system that covers all citizens, and not only a faction of the people.

Finally, Clinton discussed the false story about the assassination of foreigners in the autonomous region, saying: "Documented reports show that the Iraqi Government is offering financial rewards for terrorist operations." We will not elaborate on this lie. We will only cite the fact that the U.S. State Department spokesman said the United States is checking this information. Also, a report by the United Nations did not make any accusations in this regard. So how can Clinton be so sure in his letter? Is this not a kind of falsification and deception of the highest legislative authority in the United States?

Has Clinton forgotten that the warlords in northern Iraq, such as Talabani and Barzani, trade accusations about murder, theft, lack of security, and spread of vice? Is the CIA so incapable of knowing that there is no security in northern Iraq and that this allows for all kinds of crimes, including crimes against foreigners?

Another thing. Why does Clinton find it strange for a German reporter to be killed and two others to be injured in a region where there is no security when dozens are killed daily in New York, as well as in other American cities. The last such incident was the killing of two Japanese people in America.

Finally, we would like to tell Mr. Clinton the following: First, you are lying and you know that you are lying. This shows your dreadful moral decline, especially since you were an advocate of freedom. Second, you are lying to mislead Congress. This is a crime punishable by the U.S. Constitution and U.S. law. Third, you are helpless and driven to do all of this because hellish episodes have placed you in the middle of a hell of financial and sex scandals. You were shown a picture that condemns you and were asked to choose either killing and devouring the flesh of mankind so as to satisfy the urge of capitalism for theft in return for covering your deviations or facing scandal and receiving slaps from Hilary Clinton, the lady who makes your decisions, when these pictures are sent to her showing her the story of your romance before and after becoming president. Fourth, the lies you are telling today will result in killing more Iraqi children and elderly people and expose the Iraqi people to further pain and suffering. You are well aware of that. Therefore, you are a strong candidate to become a war criminal that can be easily guided toward organized crime.

But you are mistaken, Mr. Clinton. The world is changing. The voices of freedom are getting louder, and you know that too. This is clear in your stupidities and nervousness that prove you are aware that the United States will be defeated and Iraq will triumph, just like all nations struggling for freedom, independence, and honor will triumph.

Rabin, Peres Warn Jordan To Stop Hamas Activity

TA1504063794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin demands that Jordan put an end to the activities of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] office in Amman. Speaking to reporters on Independence Day, Rabin said that the Amman office is closely linked with the terrorist acts of Hamas in Israel, and that Israel holds the Jordanian Government responsible for anything that happens on Jordanian soil:

[Begin Rabin recording] Whoever watched closely the reaction and the action of the Hamas after carrying two murderous attacks in 'Afula and Hadera on peaceful Israeli people, could not but realize that all the spokesmanship, all the statements to the whole world came from the office of Hamas in Amman, headed by Muhammad Nazzal, that almost every day appears on television and other means of the media. We are fully aware that today the Hamas focal center of assistance to the Palestinians, to the Hamas, among the Palestinians in the territories, expresses every statement about murderous activities, threatens how many more, everything is done from the office of the Hamas in Amman [sentence as heard].

Without elaborating we believe there are other lines of communication and assistance between this center of Hamas in Amman and the activities of Hamas in the territories and attacks on targets in Israel. We have good relations in practical terms with Jordan along the border. We are interested in the continuation of the peace negotiations with Jordan, but Israel cannot tolerate the continuation of Amman being a paradise for the activities of the Hamas from Amman. Therefore we would like to make it clear to the Government of Jordan, that we see this government responsible to whatever happens on its sovereign soil, and we would like to make it clear that this situation cannot continue. It's the responsibility of the Government of Jordan on one hand to continue the peace negotiations that we are interested in, and at the same time to prevent that the Hamas will have freedom of activities in Amman, in speaking, expressing the Hamas policies, issuing all the statements, and threatens what will happen in the future. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 15 April, reporting on Rabin's and Foreign Minister Peres' news conference on Hamas activity from Jordan, carries a passage in which Peres is recorded as saying: "I have never encountered a case in which a country purportedly striving toward peace allows a representative of a murderous organization to publicly assume responsibility for two murderous attacks and announce its intention to carry out three more such attacks. He said this openly on television without any reaction, as though it is a natural thing. We know that Jordan is exerting efforts to guard the border, but there is another border which must be seen to: the border of murder and terrorism. We regard this message with all possible seriousness and firmness—it takes precedence over everything else. I, like the prime minister, hope that Jordan implements all the necessary measures as soon as possible."]

Our diplomatic reporter Jack Katzenell points out that Israel has issued similar warnings to Jordan several times in recent years following cross-border raids by terrorists, usually Islamic fundamentalists. It's always been Israel's position that Jordan is responsible for anything that happens on or from its soil. However, Israel has never taken military action against Jordan in the wake of these warnings. When the Likud government was in power such action was demanded repeatedly by one of the most prominent figures in Prime Minister Shamir's party, Ari'el Sharon, but Shamir pointedly ignored Sharon's demands.

Security Forces Detain 17 Hamas Activists in Strip

TA1404185094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces have detained two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders from the Gaza Strip—Nidal Ruhani and Ghassan al-Siyam—and fifteen activists from 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam, the military arm of Hamas.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in an operation in the al-Shati' refugee camp and Gaza city, which lasted several days and nights, the security forces detained Nidal Ruhani and Ghassan al-Siyam, and 15 more Hamas members were detained in the course of the two men's interrogation. Following a search of their homes, large sums of money, documents, and other materiel were seized, and it was learned that they were key elements in the Hamas operations against the security forces in the Strip.

Brigadier General Doron Almog, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in the Gaza Strip, commended the Shin Bet personnel and the other security forces for the capture of the Hamas members.

'More Than 20' Activists Said Detained

TA1504110194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces have detained more than 20 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and members in Samaria. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir. Seven Hamas members who knew the Hadera bus terrorist were detained in the village of Ya'bad—the hometown of the terrorist.

Body of Perpetrator of Hadera Attack Identified

TA1404144994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The body of the terrorist who perpetrated the Hadera suicide attack has been identified. He was 23-year-old 'Ammar Salah 'Amarani from the Samaria village of Ya'bad. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the man was a known Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist, but he had been never detained by the security forces.

Hamas has announced in a leaflet in Gaza that members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad carried out the Hadera attack in revenge for the Hebron massacre.

Bomb Explodes on Parked Bus at Lake Tiberias

TA1404133994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] An explosive charge went off inside a parked bus at Tzahalon Beach on Lake Tiberias. No one was hurt. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that police sappers are combing the area for more explosive charges.

Baraq: Troops Moved From Territories to Green Line

TA1404174894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Menashe] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, you have just returned from a tour of Judaea and Samaria, of Qalqilyah. Is the closure being enforced?

[Baraq] As far as possible. I met with reserve soldiers from a very fine northern Infantry brigade, and I saw that they were very well briefed on the need to conduct tighter checks of both documents and the license plates on Israeli vehicles leaving the territories. In addition, they are properly inspecting the trunks of the vehicles and checking under the seats. Secondary roads are being cut off, and patrols are deploying between the roads and inside the terrain itself. All these actions hinder the infiltration of people and warfare means into Israel, but we must admit with all honesty that they do not eliminate the danger entirely.

[Menashe] Has the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] begun implementing the order from the prime minister and defense minister to move troops from the territories to the Israel-territories divide, the Green Line?

[Baraq] Yes. Immediately after receiving this order over 24 hours ago, we started to considerably increase our deployment along the divide at the expense of our presence both in Judaea and Samaria and in Israel. This is part of some recent changes resulting from new emphases in response to the changing situation. We are no less responsible for the security of Israelis in Judaea and Samaria today than we were yesterday, but the recent events—most notably the events in Hadera and 'Afula—revealed that the emphasis of the other side's operational activity has shifted to the divide; therefore, it is vital that we shift our own activity to that place. [passage omitted]

Baraq: IDF Operational Troops Not Part of Redeployment

TA1404200794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ben-David] A week ago we witnessed the removal of equipment from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in the Gaza Strip. This was done despite the face that the negotiations with the PLO are still in progress and no agreement on the evacuation of Gaza and Jericho has been signed. Has the IDF not evacuated somewhat prematurely?

[Baraq] The IDF has brought forward the evacuation date of objects and logistics. If necessary, we can remain there just as we are for as long as 12 days, 12 months, or 12 years. The IDF's operational forces will neither leave nor redeploy in accordance with the new plans—incidentally, the redeployment is also inside the Gaza Strip, around the Qatif Bloc, around settlements and along traffic axes—until we achieve an agreement we consider reasonable from the security angle and the political echelons consider reasonable from the political point of view.

[Ben-David] We are waging a war against terrorism in the north as well. The question is whether our negotiations with Syria will be accompanied by protracted terror there, too, carried out under Syrian auspices, more or less.

[Baraq] In my opinion, we should work on the premise of and with a mental and physical preparedness for continuing terror in the north. In the long run, however, political arrangements may offer a certain chance for a long-term reduction of tension and enmity, provided they reflect an appropriate sensitivity to the security issue. Nothing can turn us into the Netherlands and Belgium or Switzerland and France in this generation, but a proper balance of security-related emphases in the political content with a technical, a physical military preparedness.... [pauses] At present, we face almost no existential threat. The State of Israel is very strong today in the sense of being able to defend its existence. What is threatened is the personal safety of its civilians, who are faced with terror.

[Ben-David] We are celebrating our Independence Day, and yet the IDF's POW's and MIA's are still not with us. Is there anything new in this respect?

[Baraq] There is no news; however, we will continue doing everything that may contribute to the discovery of new information about the fate of the MIA's and to return the POW's home. [passage omitted]

Katyusha Volleys Land in Galilee; No Casualties

TA1504045394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Katyusha rockets were fired during the night into the Galilee Panhandle from south Lebanon. There were no reports of injuries or damage. On the line now is reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

No one was hurt from the katyusha rockets which fell in the Galilee Panhandle twice during the night, nor were there any reports of damage. But it is only with first light that the Army has been able to begin sweeping the area to find exactly were the rockets fell. The katyusha attacks followed shelling of the Lebanese port city of Sidon by South Lebanon Army [SLA] soldiers last night, and that shooting came in the wake of two explosions yesterday in the village of 'Aramta in the security zone, explosions which killed several SLA soldiers and wounded a dozen more people, both soldiers and civilians. One of the dead SLA men is said to be Major As'ad Nasir, an SLA commander in the area. Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the bomb blasts, and Hizballah gunners also began shelling a number of SLA positions during the night. SLA gunners returned by firing a number of shells at different targets, including Sidon. Lebanese Army gunners also said to have taken part in exchanges of fire yesterday. This is the first time that this big port city in south Lebanon has come under fire in some years, and it is not clear just why it was targeted, but the SLA shellings claimed a number of lives and wounded a dozen people or so in this city, as well as setting a number of fires.

Israeli military sources deny reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was involved in the shooting in any way, and it was clearly a breach in the understandings which were reached after Operation Accountability in south Lebanon last year. It's not clear now just how the situation is going to develop, whether stability will return to the north or not, but tension remains very high both inside south Lebanon and in the Israeli border towns in the north.

Hizballah Blamed for Katyusha Attack

TA1504103394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] A few moments ago the residents of Qiryat Shemona were ordered into shelters. After a barrage of katyusha rockets on the Galilee this morning, the head of Northern Command has put the blame on the Hizballah organization. At the same time General Yitzhaq Mordekhay made it clear the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would not let Hizballah escalate the situation in southern Lebanon. According to Gen. Mordekhay, there may have been a connection between the katyusha attack and the SLA's [South Lebanese Army] bombardment of Sidon.

Army Urges Residents of Border Area To Go to Shelters

NC1504104794 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Qiryat Shemona, Israel, April 15 (AFP)—The army on Friday [15 April] urged Israelis living near the border with Lebanon to take shelter for fear of more rocket attacks.

Soldiers in vehicles with loudspeakers drove through northern communities urging residents to go down to underground shelters at 1:00 p.m. (1000 GMT), an AFP correspondent said here. [passage omitted]

2 Wounded in Incidents in Territories

TA1404201094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A youth from al-Zahiriyah was injured tonight by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire as he was hurling stones at soldiers south of Hebron. He sustained moderate injuries and was treated at a nearby Army clinic and then transferred to the hospital.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the Jabalyah refugee camp, a 10-year-old child was slightly wounded by rubber bullets as he and his friends were hurling stones at IDF soldiers around midday today. He was transferred to a hospital in Gaza.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at No. 25 bus on the Neve Ya'aqov-French Hill road tonight. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

10,000 Attend Rally, Show Solidarity With Netzarim

TA1404185294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The rally of solidarity with the Netzarim settlement has ended in the Qatif Bloc. Approximately 10,000 people from every part of Israel participated in the rally and the preceding marches.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the rally was addressed by right-wing Knesset members, including Ari'el Sharon, Beni Begin, and Rehav'am Ze'evi. Ari'el Sharon told our correspondent that the settlers must resist settlement evacuation nonviolently.

Approximately 2,000 of the participants in the Qatif Bloc events marched to Netzarim, violating a High Court of Justice ruling and understandings with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the Army was forced to escort the marchers.

Poll: Majority Disapprove of Government Performance

TA1304173894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] How do you rate the Israeli Government's performance?

Good	41 percent.
Not good	58 percent.
No reply	1 percent.

The poll was conducted on 10 and 11 April, questioning 504 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. Maximal margin of error is four percent.

Russia Notifies State of Arms Sale to Syria

TA1304182094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Russia has decided to renew its arms sales to Syria, and the two countries will sign a large $500-million arms deal in the near future. For the first time, Russia has informed Israel in advance of its intention to sign a new arms deal with Syria but did not specify the type of weapons covered by the transaction or the timetable of the weapons' delivery.

Moscow recently informed Jerusalem of the expected deal through diplomatic channels. According to the report, Russia has agreed to reschedule Damascus' $7-billion debt to the former Soviet Union, which was given as credit to finance previous arms purchases. After Syria makes the first payment of $2 billion to Russia, the two countries will sign a new arms deal.

Until now, Syria's huge debts were an obstacle to relations between Damascus and Moscow. For a long time the Syrians refused to discuss returning the money, claiming that Russia was not the sole heir to the former Soviet Union. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has recently recognized Russia as the sole creditor for outstanding debts and agreed to discuss resolving the problem.

In their message to Jerusalem, the Russians asserted that Moscow was still playing a marginal role in superpower arm sales to the Middle East, especially in comparison to the United States. The Russians also noted that Israel was selling weapons to the former Soviet republics bordering on Russia, such as Estonia, much to the displeasure of Moscow, which fears that these weapons may in future be turned against the Russian Army or Russian minorities in the republic.

According to reports which recently reached Israel from other sources, Syria is deliberately putting off its arms purchases from Russia in order to pressure Moscow to write off most of Syria's debt and settle for one payment of $2 billion. According to these reports, the Syrians hope that the economic crisis in Russia will force Moscow to write off their debt in order to supply work to the Russian arms industries.

It was recently reported that Syria seeks to purchase sophisticated SA-10 anti-aircraft missiles and new fighter jets from Russia.

Officials in Jerusalem have still not decided how to react to the reports on the new arms deal between Syria and Russia. Senior political sources yesterday said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin may discuss the Russian arms sales to the Middle East when he visits Moscow at the end of the month and meets Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Relations between Syria and the United States have become tense over recent weeks. Christopher Ross, the American ambassador to Syria, held an especially tough meeting, focusing on the continuing terrorist attacks in Lebanon, with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Information reaching Jerusalem indicates that the tension in U.S.-Syrian relations was the main reason for al-Asad's trip to Egypt last week to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Al-Asad expressed his deep disappointment with U.S. promises to improve relations with Syria, especially with regard to removing Syria from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and the drug trade. The Administration recently decided to leave Syria on "the drug list" despite an earlier promise to remove the Syrians from the list. [passage omitted]

King on Peace Talks, Extremists, 'Aqaba

BR1404150094 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 14 April 94 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with King Husayn by Marc Guillet in Amman; date not given: "Husayn Concerned About Peace in the Middle East—Says 'Hope Has Faded'"]

[Excerpts] Amman—"The extremists will gain successes if we fail," according to King Husayn of Jordan. The king, who always picks his words carefully and talks cautiously, could not be clearer.

He is concerned, pessimistic, and bitter about the slow progress of the peace negotiations. The Hashemite monarch no longer intends to gloss over things using polite diplomatic language.

On the day when Palestinian autonomy should have started and Muslim terrorists from Hamas had caused another bloodbath in a bomb attack in Israel, the king predicted "a disaster for everyone unless we make progress quickly."

He warned of serious consequences if the violence of Jewish and Palestinian extremists continued and the peace process continued to not deliver results.

[Husayn] At the start there was so much optimism and hope that the roots of the instability in the whole region would finally be tackled quickly and efficiently. I believe that too much time has been wasted without concrete results being achieved. [Husayn ends] [passage omitted]

While Circassians, armed with swords and dressed in their traditional black clothing, guard the doors of the meeting room, King Husayn said that we were unfortunately witnessing a "worrying" development.

[Husayn] A new mood of hope which was created with the start of the peace conference in Madrid resulted in a new large-scale movement for peace. Of course there were opponents, but at that time they were in the minority.

The hopes for peace have faded due to a lack of progress and the tragic events which have claimed many lives. I believe that the bloodbath in Hebron for example was an attempt to kill off the peace process. The violence and the counter-violence are tragic. To stop that, I would suggest moving forward as quickly as possible to reach a peace which future generations can also live with. I regret and condemn all the violence from whatever side, but I hope that the causes of despair will disappear and that hope will be reborn again as quickly as possible. [Husayn ends] [passage omitted]

When asked about the major cause of the lack of progress in the peace process, he lit another cigarette. After a marked pause, he started his answer hesitantly. "There are various causes," he said. "We have seen that attention is constantly shifting from one subject to another. Of course the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are the most important, but there is less attention on the other questions than there should be. That is not the right approach. Due to the fact that we must work toward an all-inclusive peace, progress should be made on all fronts."

King Husayn stressed that it nevertheless makes little sense, as Israel wants, to make a peace agreement while negotiations on the content of the agreement were continuing and little progress was being made. "Peace comes to crown agreements which have been made about every aspect on the agenda," he said.

On the Jordanian side, there is clearly less enthusiasm for continuing along the present road as long as Israel refuses to talk about its borders and the allocation of the scarce water sources and as long as the blockade of 'Aqaba harbor by the U.S. Navy continues.

"We do not understand why we are treated differently," the king said about the blockade, which is the result of the international trade embargo against Iraq after the Gulf War. "The special treatment gives the impression that we are not following the Security Council's resolutions with regard to Iraq. If people want to pressure us, we wonder what their goal is. We are implementing the resolutions. Are we being punished because we did not send soldiers for the war against Iraq? Or do some people in the region want us to end up in a situation where we can hardly survive? Is itan attempt to make us fall? Is it an attempt to seriously damage our relations with the people of Iraq? Why Jordan? Because Jordan is the only country which borders Iraq? This situation is unacceptable. We act against attempts to evade the UN embargo. Pressure on us will achieve nothing."

[Guillet] Do you think that extremists on both sides have enough support to derail the peace process?

[Husayn] There are extremists who do not understand what is at stake if peace is impossible. Extremism is fed by frustration, anger, and a lack of hope. If we do not change that very quickly, then the consequences will be very serious. The overwhelming majority of the people must regain hope by concrete progress.

[Guillet] PLO Chairman 'Arafat refused personally to condemn the bloodbath in 'Afula. What advice would you give to him after the latest attack in Israel?

[Husayn] I do not want to give him any advice. I hope he realizes the importance of what he is doing.

King Interviewed Further

JN1404194594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified Japanese NHK television correspondent in Amman on 13 April—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, first of all, I would like to express my heartful gratitude for giving me this kind opportunity of receiving me today.

[Husayn] It is a pleasure, sir.

[Correspondent] The time is limited, sir, so let me start. First of all, I would like to focus on the peace. As you see, today is the deadline for Israeli forces withdrawal, and it is not met, after all. What is your feeling at this moment?

[Husayn] I am worried and concerned that, unfortunately, the hopes of so many people on either side of the divide are suffering a setback in terms of the delays and the lack of progress in implementing agreements and in dealing with the problem as a whole, comprehensively, on all the tracks that are there to be dealt with.

[Correspondent] Would you give me some general comment on the peace process itself?

[Husayn] It is so very, very important, sir. It is the difference between disaster overtaking this area and the rest of the world, and the future that we seek to give future generations from both sides of the divide; to live in peace and in security, and in an entirely different region characterized by peace and cooperation, a peace based on justice, a peace that future generations can live with and protect. And if this chance is lost, I really don't know what would happen, except disaster. So, we will be slipping towards it very, very rapidly. So, something has to be done. Everyone has to realize their responsibilities and move much more with determination to achieve it as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the possibility of this peace process and the Declaration of Principles? Can you become optimistic?

[Husayn] I have faith and a feeling that those in positions of responsibility, wherever they are, must respond to the genuine desire of the overwhelming majority of people in this region; to see it live a life worthy of it and worthy of its people in conditions of peace and security, and I hope that this will compel us to realize that we cannot waste more time, and that the Palestinian problem has to be addressed in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil, but also there has to be real, genuine progress on all tracks to achieve a comprehensive peace. It has been suggested, at times here, for example, that we should ratify a piece of paper, then negotiate its contents. I would believe that this is not the right approach. The right approach is to negotiate seriously about every matter that has been outlined in an agenda that we ratified in support of the Palestinian stand, in terms of Palestinian rights, following their agreement with the Government of Israel in Washington, and which is now there, but without much movement. We have to move to reach agreement on every point so that the crowning achievement is a state of peace and a peace treaty. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Well, I'd like to pick up Jordan-Israel track. What kind of stage is it on now?

[Husayn] Some movement, but nothing as serious as we would wish it to be, as yet. There are areas, sir, that concern occupied territories and these have to be addressed very, very rapidly. We have to know that we have arrived at a satisfactory conclusion in regard to defining, delineating, and demarcating these borders. These negotiations, to do so, could be held even in the region that is affected directly, and the question of water is an important issue to realize what the share of each participant is going to be, and beyond that, we want to create the conditions, sir, for the world to come out and help us when we can present a state of peace to the world. So, if those who are able can join us in doing everything possible to effect a change of the quality of life here, but also to be our partners in ventures that could not come to being except in a state of peace, ventures that would be mutually beneficial to us and to all those who partake in rebuilding this entire region in a state of peace. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] Well, about the relationship with Iraq. I think Jordan changed its favorable stands toward Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to not so favorable stands. Is it true?

[Husayn] Sir, the unfortunate result of all our efforts before the Gulf war and during the Gulf crisis was failure, failure to prevent the war, failure to reverse the occupation of Kuwait peacefully, and I believe that our concerns were legitimate and our motives were honorable; to try to, within the Arab context, achieve a withdrawal by the Iraqis from Kuwait and the resolution of the problem peacefully and to avoid the wounds that have been created since, which have affected many, many people and will continue to affect them for a long period of time. Unfortunately, my efforts with both sides to that confrontation failed. But, as far as the Iraqi people are concerned, I am worried and concerned with their continued suffering in a manner that cannot be accepted.

[Correspondent] Recently, I've heard that Jordan said that unless the United Nations lift the blockade of al-'Aqabah, Jordan will not return to the peace process. Is it true?

[Husayn] We have said that any further moves will be contingent on resolving this problem because we would like to know who is causing it. We would like to know under what authority, and for what purpose. If we have moved to enable the peace process to make all the achievement that was possible until now, including going to Madrid and providing the Palestinians an opportunity to engage in and try to resolve their problems with Israel, directly following the Rabat summit decision that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. We did all that not because of pressure, not because of intimidation. We did that because of conviction. So, we see no reason for Jordan's treatment in the

way it has been over the years that have passed, in regard to al-'Aqabah and freedom of navigation and shipping to al-'Aqabah and from it. So, things have reached a point where the situation is intolerable and we try to rectify it and to point out to the world that if it is pressure, we do not succumb to pressure. If we moved on the peace process, we moved because we have always been dedicated to the cause of peace. If it is Security Council resolutions as they affect Iraq, we have implemented them, although we are deeply worried and deeply concerned about the people of Iraq, suffering as they have, so far. So, this problem cannot continue the way it is, indefinitely.

[Correspondent] Would you give a brief comment on the role of Japan in this region and on the peace process?

[Husayn] The role of Japan is very much appreciated, sir. We are friends and have been over a long period of time, and the friendship has grown. The cooperation has grown between us. Japan is very important to us. It is an example. It is, at the same time, a major power in the world and I hope very, very much indeed, that its role will be constructive one in the times ahead, and that we will also be able to provide the opportunities in a context of peace for Japan to play a major role as a partner in reshaping the future in this region and addressing the area in terms of the requirements for peace as they affect the people in the times ahead.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

King Rejects U.S. Inspection of al-'Aqabah Port

PM1404143094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "King Husayn Rejects U.S. Offer To Carry Out Inspection Inside al-'Aqabah Port"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Jordanian sources confirmed yesterday that the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, has rejected a clause stipulating setting up a U.S. inspection position inside al-'Aqabah Port, because that impairs Jordanian sovereignty and provokes the Jordanians' feelings.

The sources said that U.S.-Jordanian contacts over the past few days resulted in an initial agreement containing a number of points on arrangements in Jordanian territorial waters and inside al-'Aqabah Port. Their aim is to ascertain Jordan's compliance with the Security Council resolutions concerning the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

The sources added that the point that angered the Jordanian monarch is the proposal that U.S. soldiers and observers be allowed to inspect containers inside the port.

Early in the week reports said that an agreement had been reached between Washington and Amman to ease the al-'Aqabah Port blockade.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian Foreign Ministry source has ruled out a visit to the region at the end of the month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, despite the official U.S. announcement of the date of the visit.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the delay in signing an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on arrangements for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is bound to change the date and program of the anticipated visit. The U.S. secretary was expected to attend the signing ceremony in Cairo, that is in addition to a number of European foreign ministers.

The Jordanian sources said that the continuation of the al-'Aqabah blockade is the result of Jordan's repeated rejection of the U.S.-Israeli pressures—which have reached the point of going beyond diplomatic behavior—designed to force Jordan to hasten to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel, as they are not content with the signing of the agenda.

The sources added that whenever the course of the negotiations with the Palestinians in Cairo and Paris becomes complicated and the signing of the principles agreement, which was expected to take place on 20 April, is delayed, more pressure is exerted on Jordan by every possible means to push it toward signing a peace agreement.

Campaign To End al-'Aqabah Blockade To Be Launched

JN1404121594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Jordan will shortly make large-scale political moves, to be spearheaded by His Majesty King Husayn, to explain Jordan's position toward the international embargo imposed against the Port of al-'Aqabah and Iraq. Jordan's drive aims to enlighten the world community about the need to apply pressures to end this embargo, which is harmful to both Jordan and Iraq, particularly since the outlets of the countries neighboring Iraq are wide open to trade with Iraq, whereas only Jordan is besieged in this regard. Jordan is next only to Iraq in terms of the harm caused by this embargo.

Responsible Jordanian sources said that the Jordanian moves will take the form of royal visits abroad, the dispatch of envoys carrying royal messages abroad, as well as extensive diplomatic efforts on the international scene to be led by Jordanian Embassies abroad.

The Jordanian campaign aims to end the blockade clamped on the Port of al-'Aqabah and the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. Lately, Jordanian-Iraqi contacts have been activated. Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, who is currently visiting Jordan, has relayed a message from President Saddam to His Majesty King Husayn. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'id al-Tall is visiting Baghdad, where he has met with several Iraqi officials.

Writer Discusses al-'Aqabah, U.S. 'Demands'

JN1404154294 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
16-22 Apr 94 pp 8, 33

[Nidal Mansur report: "This Is What the United States Wants From Jordan: Jordanian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, Normalization, End of Boycott of Israel"]

[Text] Politicians were initially optimistic that the al-'Aqabah siege would be lifted following official Jordanian protests and his majesty's announcement that Jordan would suspend its participation in the peace talks unless the siege was lifted.

But, days have gone by without any clear progress. To the contrary, economic personalities and merchants have told SHIHAN that the U.S. Navy has continued to tighten the noose on al-'Aqabah, indicating, as some Jordanian politicians say, that the al-'Aqabah blockade has no connection with the Gulf crisis and the rumored leaking of goods into Iraq from Jordan, and that the blockade is a systematic U.S. policy to compel Jordan to meet demands connected in a basic way with the peace process with Israel.

Clearly, the Jordanian leadership immediately understood the U.S. message, prompting the king to link the al-'Aqabah blockade with the peace process.

Well-informed government sources say Jordan will place the al- 'Aqabah issue at the top of the agenda of any talks with the Americans.

This information coincides with reports of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's approaching visit to the region in the next few weeks. Western diplomats believe that if the United States wants to continue to pressure Jordan without offering it a clear picture, Jordan will not be part of Christopher's coming tour.

Jordanian officials are bewildered by the U.S. stand and are wondering what the United States is demanding of Jordan.

It is certain that these demands are clearly linked with the peace process. Political observers indicate that the United States wants the following from Jordan:

1. An Israeli-Jordanian declaration of principles similar to the PLO-Israel Oslo agreement;

2. A clear Jordanian role in ending the Arab boycott of Israel;

3. An effective and primary Jordanian role in normalizing ties with Israel, such as the economic conference that was scheduled to convene in Jordan, with Shim'on Peres participating, and which the government demanded be postponed.

A minister who preferred anonymity told SHIHAN that while Jordan had known about these demands since the start of its participation in the peace process, it is difficult for Jordan to meet these demands in the way the United States wants, especially since it is governed by local and regional formulas making it revolve in a fixed orbit, calculating its slightest moves with extreme care.

Perhaps the more dangerous issue for Jordan, which prevents it from quickly responding to the U.S. desire, is that it does not know the price it is going to pay in return for these offers.

Until now, the United States has not told Jordan that the al-'Aqabah blockade will be lifted in return. Therefore, Jordanian officials are not reassured about the U.S. position. They say indignantly that since the beginning of the peace talks, the United States has not offered enough in terms of economic assistance and aide to Jordan, which is suffering a crisis after its boycott by the Gulf states. The United States has continued to monitor this Gulf boycott of Jordan, especially the Saudi veto against Jordan. The U.S. silence may have increased the Gulf's intransigent attitude.

America's ambiguity is one reason why Jordan is not rushing into hasty action. However, there are no less compelling reasons from Jordan's standpoint.

Jordan cannot afford to break ranks with fellow Arabs the way the PLO did when it signed the Oslo accord. There is the constraint of its relations with Syria. Jordan cannot proceed without the Syrians, unless the Americans provide sufficient guarantees to protect it regionally.

In the wake of the Oslo accord, it seems that history has come into play, with Jordan seeking cover under the Syrian option. Syria, for its part, cannot afford to let Lebanon or Jordan go it alone, and so be left high and dry.

By not accommodating America's requirements, Jordan is not being inhibited by purely regional calculations; given its internal politics, Jordan cannot afford to take a short cut.

With the institution of democracy in Jordan, the regime has been made stronger and political opposition has been given greater elbowroom and the ability to pester the government. Any action toward normalizing relations with or ending the economic boycott of Israel will not be easy to sell to the Jordanian public. For the government to undertake such moves, it will have either to secure a regional cover, or tame internal opposition.

With such givens, Jordan seems to be walking a tight rope. It is in the position of someone who has travelled half the distance and seems to be unable to go backward. Neither can it proceed forward without having to make real sacrifices.

There seems to be more than one school of thought in Jordan on how to proceed.

His majesty the king is known to be disinclined to adventure and gambling. He favors a more cautious

approach to local and regional developments, even if that means the noose being tightened around Jordan.

However, political observers argue that Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, having led the negotiating team with Israel, seems to be more inclined to breaking the deadlock. Al-Majali is thought to believe the "taboos" complex that Jordan resolved by joining the peace negotiations should not act to inhibit its movement.

Obviously, the king's line of balancing acts and keeping his lines open in all directions has not gone down well with the U.S. Administration, according to Western diplomats. Citing examples that inconvenienced the Americans and clouded relations with Washington, the diplomats point to Jordan's coordination with Syria. They also cite Jordan's failure to suppress Palestinian opposition, namely Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, headquartered in Amman, and Jordan's flexibility toward its own Islamists.

Jordan is now facing difficult options.

It wants to reconcile its regional calculations and future interests, an argument observers cite while speculating that the king may dismiss the present government and bring in a new prime minister who would be prepared to cope with regional developments and pressures without worrying too much about the consequences.

Minister Defends Reasons for Islamists' Detention

JN1404115194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The Government Wednesday [13 April] said it had sound and convincing reasons for detaining 10 Islamists being investigated for membership of an illegal group believed to be planning "terrorist acts."

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies took the case of these and other Islamists detained on security-related cases to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali earlier this week and later circulated their memorandum to the premier for publication in local newspapers.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said the IAF should have waited to "hear the other side of the story" before releasing their memorandum in the press.

Dr al-'Anani, in an interview with the Jordan Times, said that Dr. al-Majali, who met with a delegation of the IAF deputies Monday evening, "told them that arrests are not made indiscriminately and that there were good reasons for the detentions."

"The premier told them that we respect their request to study the issue but that since each story has two sides the premier was going to investigate their charges and bring back the other side of the story to them" Dr. al-'Anani said.

In their memorandum to the prime minister, the IAF deputies listed names of 72 detainees, including the 10 arrested in connection with an illegal group, and quoted relatives of some of the detainees with claims of mistreatment.

All of the arrests, as specified in the list provided by the IAF, have been made since the beginning of this year.

Ten people have been recently arrested for what security sources said was establishing a "group planning terrorist activities." The sources, quoted by the AL-RA'Y Arabic daily Wednesday, said the group had "islamist ties" and was planning a series of armed robberies of shops, taxis and at a later stage banking institutions to collect funds for weapons.

The security sources said the group was headed by a 38-year old man whom it did not name.

Amman Deputy Hamzah Mansur, the spokesman for the IAF's parliamentary bloc, told the Jordan Times that their meeting with the premier dealt with the detention of about 70 people on charges of belonging to groups to destablise the Kingdom's security or carry out terrorist attacks.

However, informed sources maintain that the conversation mainly dealt with the detention of these last 10 Islamists. Mr. Mansur said that the Monday meeting came after several similar meetings with the prime minister over the detention of illegal Islamist groups.

Asked why the IAF deputies decided to publicise this meeting with the prime minister and not the ones before, Mr. Mansur said: "We had received promises of quick releases and ensuring humane and good treatment of the detainees."

But, he added, they went to see the prime minister "because we felt that the issue still stands."

In a copy of a memorandum released Wednesday, the IAF asked the premier to interject on behalf of 72 detainees in Jordanian prisons and ensure that they receive treatment compatible with accepted human rights standards.

The deputies said that while they did not condone the actions of the detainees they wanted to "protect the dignity and freedoms of citizens as guranteed by the Islamic Sharia and our constitution."

Mr. Mansur, in his telephone interivew with the Jordan times, said that the delegation also wanted the government to release the detainees when investigations indicate that they were not party to any illegal activity.

The IAF delegation which met with Dr. al-Majali was composed of Mr. Masur, Amman Deputy Ibrahim Kaylani, Irbid Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, Amman Deputy Hammam Sa'id, al-Balqa' Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah and al-Karak Deputy Ahmad al-Kasasibah.

"The delegation briefed the prime minister on the wave arrests of citizens at this time and what accompanied these arrests in practices that do not tally with citizens' freedoms and rights as guaranteed by the Islamic Sharia and our constitution," the IAF said in a statement Wednesday.

"The prime minister promised to study the memorandum and deal with it positively stressing that he will endeavour to apply the law and protect the diegnity of citizens," it said.

In their letter to the prime minister, the IAF deputies appeared to concentrate their defence on former Afghan fighters who were arrested after security forces connected some of them to a series of bomb blasts in third-class cinemas in Amman and al-Zarqa.

"Jordan has never lived for itself alone but strove to serve the nation and higher causes... from this vision some of our young men flew to Pakistan and Afghanistan when that Islamic nation fell under Soviet occupation and their deed was compatible with the wishes of their people, government," the IAF deputies said in their memorandum to the prime minister.

"People like these should under no circumstances be accused unless we want to also accuse the Jordanians who answered the call of duty in Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, and others," the memo added.

"We refuse that contributing to help others of our faith in Afghanistan be considered a crime," the memo concluded.

The IAF deputies also criticized what they said was a wave of arrests of university students. They also said that there were "regretful events in the University of Jordan from parties known to the security forces aimed to influence the students."

The deputies were particularly careful in their criticism of the arrest of persons connected to bomb blasts and bombing attempts. While condemning "any act which targets any institution on the land of our country and any attempt to destabilise the atmosphere in the country and hope that those involved in these kind of acts would be referred to court," the memorandum said, the IAF "also believes that a defendant remains innocent and should exercise his right to defend himself until proven guilty."

The IAF deputies also criticised the crackdown on members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (Abu-Nidal) group after their group was connected to the gunning down of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut in January.

"While we condemn this ugly crime against a faithful son of Jordan we condemn the indiscriminate arrests," the memorandum said.

Dr. al-'Anani said that the prime minister had listened to the IAF's arguments and impressed on them that he believed there were "sound and convincing reasons" for the detentions.

"But in light of the fact that they had come asking him to look into the case and the charges of the relatives, the primier said that he was going to check their claims and come back to them with his findings," Dr. al-'Anani said.

Dr. al-Majali, the information minister said, also told the IAF deputies that "he will make sure that justice takes its course."

Timing of Iraqi Opposition Meeting in Amman Noted

JN1304145094 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 11-12 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "As al-Tall Continues His Visit to Iraq, Attempts To Mar the Jordanian-Iraqi Relations"]

[Text] Amman—AKHIR KHABAR—It has been reported that some Iraqi opposition members met in Amman in March. Husayn al-Hakim, an Iraqi opposition leader, took part in that meeting.

AKHIR KHABAR has noticed that reports of that meeting were leaked at a time coinciding with the visit of Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, to Baghdad to brief the Iraqi brothers on the latest developments in the siege imposed on Iraq and al-'Aqabah.

The reports came on the heels of a successful recent visit to Baghdad by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation. Informed sources said the Iraqi leadership welcomed the delegation's proposal that multilateral parliamentary delegations should visit the big powers in order to support the Iraqi position on the blockade. The Iraqi National Assembly (parliament) has issued a statement praising Jordan's stand on the official and popular levels.

Buwayz Outlines Measures Following Murder of Iraqi

NC1404115894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Apr 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at Lebanese Foreign Ministry in Beirut on 14 April—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What measure will the Foreign Ministry take if it transpires that the two diplomats from the embassy assassinated Iraqi oppositionist Talib Suhayl?

[Buwayz] First, we should state what happened. On Tuesday [word indistinct], when Talib Suhayl, holder of a Jordanian passport but of Iraqi origin, was at home, two people entered masquerading as clothes merchants, fired from guns fitted with silencers, and escaped. The Internal Security Forces were informed and set up checkpoints. Based on a description of the cars [used by the attackers], the Internal Security Forces arrested people intending to enter the Iraqi Embassy on Wednesday morning. They were carrying guns equipped with silencers, the guns that were used in the shooting. The two men were identified as Khalid 'Alwan Khalaf, a trade attache in the Iraqi Embassy, and Muhammad Kamil Kazim, a cultural attache in the same embassy. It seems that Hadi Hasan, who has no official status, gained entry to the Iraqi Embassy. These are the facts.

The Lebanese authorities have taken measures to guard these people and to obtain the information necessary to conduct an investigation into this criminal case. As for the political and diplomatic aspects, the Foreign Ministry will soon request that the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Lebanon lift the diplomatic immunity of the two attaches and hand over Hadi Hasan to the Lebanese judicial authorities to investigate him.

Lebanon cannot be exploited, under diplomatic cover or the cover of diplomatic immunity, as a stage for settling scores and carrying out crimes. Based on that, the Lebanese Government insists on conducting investigations and uncovering every circumstance of this crime.

[Correspondent] If Iraq does not respond, will Lebanon break off relations with it?

[Buwayz] I believe it is premature to speculate on how things will develop. Today we will officially ask the Iraqi Embassy to inform the Iraqi Government of the Lebanese Government's request that the diplomatic immunity of the two be lifted and that the third suspect be handed over.

[Correspondent] Did the Iraqi foreign minister try to telephone you again today after failing to reach you yesterday?

[Buwayz] No direct contact has been held yet. The Iraqi Embassy gave us a memorandum asking that the two people be released on the basis of their immunity and international norms. We are saying that they are under guard for their own security first and in line with the requirements of public order second. We think the interrogations dictate such handling.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the Lebanese charge d'affaires in Iraq?

[Buwayz] We recalled the Iraqi charge d'affaires at the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad yesterday morning. In the evening he joined our embassy in Jordan and this morning he was at the Foreign Ministry for contacts and consultations.

[Correspondent] Is this the first step toward closing the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad?

[Buwayz] I think it is useless to make predictions. All this depends on the extent of the Iraqi Embassy's cooperation with the Lebanese authorities.

[Correspondent] Was the atmosphere of the meeting with the Iraqi charge d'affaires positive? [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] The Iraqi charge d'affaires said he had no knowledge of what happened. Today he was summoned by the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, who will inform him of the Lebanese Government's decision in this regard.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] No. The victim is an Iraqi national holding Jordanian and Saudi passports.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] in Amman?

[Buwayz] No. We are not aware of this. Thank you.

U.S. Envoy Delivers Message to Buwayz

NC1504111694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] A short time ago, U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Mark Hambley handed Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz a message from the U.S. Government asking that security and calm be established on the Lebanese border. [passage omitted]

Israelis Shell Sidon; Deaths, Injuries Reported

NC1404205294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Israeli enemy forces and their agent militias stepped up the security situation in the south this evening. Using their large-caliber artillery, as of 1915 they shelled the city of Sidon with violent and concentrated fire. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent there reported that the shelling concentrated on Dalla'ah Street, the area around the town hall, and the eastern boulevard of the city. This led to various injuries among the people. A large fire also started as a result of

the shelling near the Ghassan Hammud Hospital. In addition, al-Qurn al-'Arabi square and the Hayy al-Khabbaz areas came under violent and concentrated shelling at around 1930. We have received reports about many dead and injured. Among the dead are 'Adnan al-Susi and among the injured Ibrahim al-Susi. There were also some members from the al-Buji and al-Naquzi families among the injured. A military source in the Lebanese Army has reported that its artillery is shelling the locations of the enemy artillery inside the occupied strip, in response to the shelling Sidon has been coming under this evening. The various brigades and Army units in the area have been placed in a state of alert.

Ladies and gentlemen, we now have with us colleague Talal al-'Abdallah from the editorial desk at the radio news office. Hello, Talal.

[Begin al-'Abdallah recording] Hello, Joseph. In the latest dispatch from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south, and in particular from Sidon, he said that the shelling abated at around 2130 and that the semi-final toll of this treacherous attack is as follows: Some of the martyrs are 'Adnan al-Susi, Muhammad Mahmud Jirad, and a two-year old baby. At Hammud Hospital, the injured are Ahmad Jirdi, Amin al-Baba, Ibrahim Bawji, Mahmud 'Abd- al-Ghani, Muhammad al-Krambli, and Fawzi al-Sayigh. Also in Abu Dahr Hospital, some of the injured are First Warrant Officer Muhammad al-Hajj. In Dalla'ah Hospital, the injured are Ahmad Hallaq and Ahmad Muhiyyah.

On the other hand, what is called the Voice of the South admitted a short while ago that three members of the South Lebanese Army died when an explosive device blew up (?in their vehicle). [end recording]

Israeli Shelling, Reinforcements Reported

NC1504095194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The villages of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tulin, and al-Suwwanah came under a concentrated Israel artillery barrage this morning. The shelling continued intermittently at the rate of one round per minute until 0500 today, prompting residents inhabitants to seek protection in shelters and the innermost rooms of their homes. The bombardment was accompanied by intensive overflights by Israeli helicopters, which fired flares and raked the area. Retaliating for the continuing enemy acts of aggression, which left three dead and dozens wounded in Sidon, resistance groups shelled several Israeli settlements, concentrating on the Galilee panhandle. The enemy admitted that rockets landed in the area but denied any casualties.

The Israeli enemy sent in many vehicles and reinforcements, which were spotted traveling along the international highway near Tallat al-'Abbad. These reinforcements have deployed in the al-Tayyibah- al-Qantarah-'Alman triangle.

Minister Comments on Peace Process, UN Mission

JN1504060094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman yesterday evening received a UN Middle East fact-finding mission that includes journalists from several nations.

The minister spoke about Syria's policy toward the peace process. He said: We supported the U.S. initiative because it considered the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The minister denounced the policy of procrastination and maneuvering being pursued by Israel to thwart the peace process. He asserted that the Madrid conference and the Washington talks have revealed to the world that Israel does not want peace and that it seeks instead to take on this or that Arab party on its own to conclude separate deals away from an international frame of reference.

Dr. Salman said further that Israel has tried to circumvent the outcome of the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton by using pressure and launching a defamation campaign, in cooperation with the Zionist lobby, against the U.S. President. This is meant to drive the U.S. Administration to go back on its pledges regarding the achievement of peace on all tracks of the conflict.

The minister added that the new tendentious campaign against Syria is part of the schemes of Israel and the Zionist lobby to mar U.S.-Syrian relations and try to influence Syria's position that adheres to a comprehensive solution and does not submit to any blackmail or pressures.

The minister concluded his conversation with the members of the UN fact-finding mission by noting that the U.S. Government praised Syria's cooperation with Washington and European and international organizations in the field of combating drugs. Israel, on the other hand, is one of the primary countries that facilitate drug trafficking worldwide.

U.S. Urged To Adopt 'Independent' Policy on Peace

JN1504063194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH speaks about renewed U.S. support for Israel, asserting that Israeli conduct that obstructs peace depends on continued U.S. support.

The paper urges Washington to adopt an independent policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict or to deal impartially with this hot issue, so as to champion justice, international legitimacy, and the UN Charter and resolutions, as well as its credibility as a superpower entrusted by the Arabs and the world, but not by Israel, to look for a political settlement. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 form the basis and foundation of this settlement, as well as the spirit of the initiative launched by the United States and the concept of exchanging land for peace.

AL-THAWRAH says if the U.S. Administration does not champion all of the above principles and the commitments President Clinton reiterated at the Geneva summit with President Hafiz al-Asad, then the least it should do is not to side with the Israeli aggressor that has usurped rights and territory. It should also not provide Israel with a cover by extending military and political aid to it. This aid strengthens the leaders of Israel in their rejection of all the obligations of just and comprehensive peace and in continuing aggression and crimes, adhering to their occupation of the Arab territories, taking lightly the will of the international community, and violating its legitimacy and laws.

The paper adds that U.S. support has been a major cause for increasing Israeli intransigence and arrogance. It has also encouraged Israeli practices, crimes, and attacks on Arabs. Today, this support is a direct cause for obstructing the peace process and Israel's not committing itself to its terms of reference.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to support the peace process toward achieving a just solution, without favoritism or bias.

'Wondrous' Hadera, 'Afula Operations Hailed

JN1404193394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Fayiz Qandil]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Although the explosion at Hadera, in the Zionist heartland, yesterday, was only powerful enough to destroy just one Israeli military vehicle, it shook the earth under the decaying Zionist ideology, and dented the Zionists' arrogance and racism enough to make them understand who they are and who we, the Palestinian Arab people, are.

We, the Arabs, will help the Zionists make sense out of what happened at Hadera yesterday, provided they try to remember what happened a week before that. On that occasion, the Palestinian Arab struggle punished the wolves of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in 'Afula, as called for by divine and temporal laws and moral ethics. It would seem, though, that the Zionists have not recognized the 'Afula attack as a limited Palestinian Arab

punishment for an indescribably savage Zionist massacre. Indeed, the Zionists were so arrogant and racist as to bark their infamous slogan, death to the Arabs.

True to their extremist and racist natures, they put their abhorrent slogan into practice. That was in the intervening week between the spectacular and wondrous 'Afula and Hadera operations. The Israeli military, using anti-tank rockets, flattened Palestinian Arab houses in the valiant city of Ramallah under their usual pretext that they were after some Palestinian Arabs on the run. That was an act of sheer terror and piracy. What matters here is that not one Palestinian Arab's body was found under the rubble. The houses and properties of all the world are not equal in value to a single Arab martyr's blood, even though martyrdom in itself is a gain and a new lease on life. In any case, let us remind Zionist injustice that by shelling Palestinian villages and camps with antitank rockets, Israel has pushed the limits of terrorism. Firing even a single rocket at an Arab house is the ultimate in terror—an action prohibited by the Hague and Geneva conventions under which occupied territories and their population must be protected against the evils and criminality of the invading forces. Under these conventions, these forces are guilty of a category of war crimes and mass killings that came before special tribunals after World War II.

For the record, we will point out that Arab resistance in the occupied territories has warned the Israelis to expect Arab rockets to be fired at Zionist houses, as tit for tat, unless Israel refrains. After the Arab houses were blown up in Ramallah, the Israeli occupation wolves shot and killed a young pregnant Palestinian Arab woman who happened to be standing by a window in her home. Yesterday, and before the Hadera explosion, a Zionist settler, acting under the protection of the occupation army, opened fire on Arab school children in Jericho, wounding several of them. He was able to escape with the aid of killers of the Israeli occupation army. Hours later, Arab dynamite shook Hadera.

Will Israel now learn the lesson of 'Afula and Hadera, or will the Israelis revert to their terrorist, arrogant, and stupidly racist Zionist mentality? It is not for us to provide the answer to this question. This is for Israel to answer. If Israel learns the lesson and ends occupation and dismantles settlements and disarms settlers the road for peace will open wide. However, if Israel, as we think likely to happen, refuses to see sense, and death to the Arabs continues to be barked by the extremists, the Zionist state will be confronted by a great Palestinian Arab people who will unsheath the Israeli sword with one hand, staunch their noble wound with the other hand, and then hurl the sword back at Israel's chest.

Israel must call a halt to its terror and atrocities against the Palestinian Arab people. Otherwise, the muscular hand of the Palestinian Arab people that struck at 'Affula and Hadera in the Zionist heartland will reach to any place in Palestine that the wolves of Israeli occupation imagine is out of reach of the Palestinain resistance. The only situation under which the Zionist invaders may have security and peace is the departure of Zionist colonialism and its weapons and institutions from the last inch of our sacred Palestinian Arab land.

'Heroic' 'Afula Operation Hailed

JN1404163494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] Brothers along the path of revolution and liberation: The occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have seen further operations and violent confrontations with Zionist soldiers and settlers. These operations extended to parts of Palestinian territory occupied in 1948.

Less than 24 hours after the daring martyrdom operation carried out by a Palestinian youth in the city of 'Afula in 1948 Palestine, in which eight Israelis were killed and 52 others were wounded, a Palestinian youth opened fire on Zionist settlers near Ashdod, also in 1948 Palestine. A settler was killed and four were wounded. The Palestinian youth was martyred when the Zionist soldiers in the area shot him dead. A Palestinian youth in the occupied Gaza Strip stabbed a Zionist settler in the [Gush Qatif] settlement near Khan Yunus, seriously wounding him.

These are some of the bold and heroic operations the intifadah youth carried out against the Zionist soldiers and settlers in the Arab territories occupied before and after 1967. The 'Afula and subsequent operations are in reply to the massacres committed by settler gangs and Zionist troops in the holy Ibrahim Mosque 40 days ago.

No doubt, carrying out this operation and the Ashdod operation in 1948 Palestine confirms the ability of intifadah youths to expand their operations to include, in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, all the cities and villages in 1948 Palestine. The intifadah youths can move and carry out operations throughout occupied Palestine. There will be no secure or calm place in the occupied Arab territories as long as Zionist occupation exists in Palestine and as long as the occupation authorities refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories or recognize the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

As acknowledged by Zionist officials, the 'Afula operation and subsequent daring fedayeen operations confirmed both the failure of the Israeli repression and the inability of the Israeli Army, police, and all the repressive Israeli measures to provide protection and security to the Zionist settlers. After the Hebron massacre, the occupation authorities sealed off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and took various terrorist and repressive measures in order to prevent the intifadah youths from replying to this massacre. But what was the result? The result appeared in 'Afula, and a few hours

later, in Ashdod. The intifadah youths replied to the massacre in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, in which more than 60 Palestinian worshipers were victimized and hundreds were wounded.

The intifadah youths replied to this massacre in 1948 Palestine in 'Afula and Ashdod, confirming their determination to continue the struggle against the occupation authorities, and stressing their ability to reach their targets at the time and in the place they choose. There is no safe place in the occupied Arab territories. There will be no peace or security for Zionist settlers and soldiers as long as Israel occupies Arab territories and as long as settler gangs and occupation troops commit daily massacres and terrorist crimes against Palestinian worshipers, children, and women.

Peace, security, and stability will not be achieved for Israel as long as peace, security, and stability are not available for the Palestinian Arab people. A just and comprehensive peace has bases, components, and principles. UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 defined these bases and components. These resolutions provide for full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, namely, the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, as well as occupied Golan and the occupied portion of southern Lebanon. They also guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

These are the components of a comprehensive and just peace which were the bases of the peace process. Without implementing these bases and components, Israel will not enjoy peace and stability regardless of the duration of the occupation or Israel's terrorist massacres and crimes. Our Palestinian Arab people will not surrender as long as occupation exists in the land of Palestine, and they will chase the Zionists in every spot in occupied Palestine. Our people can do this, as was proved by the 'Afula operation, by the operations that followed this operation, and by the operation that will follow it. These operations will never stop, regardless of challenges and of the duration of both the occupation and aggression. Final victory will be the lot of our Palestinian Arab people, the owners of the land and the rightful claimants to this land, the land of their fathers and forefathers.

Omani Consultative Council Delegation Departs

JN1404145794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Omani Consultative Council delegation led by Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-'Ali al-Qatabi left Damascus this morning after a four-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah; Dr. Ibrahim Za'rur, deputy head of the Assembly's Guidance Committee; Assembly secretary Rajab Ibrahim; Oman's Ambassador to Damascus 'Abdallah al-Kharusi; and some Omani Embassy staff .

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Shaykh al-Qatabi lauded the close, strong, and fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries. The foundations of these relations were laid by President Hafiz al-Asad and Sultan Qabus, he noted.

Shaykh al-Qatabi added: As part of this visit, we are adding a brick to the comprehensive building of sisterly inter-Arab relations. This visit gave us an opportunity to meet with our brothers in the People's Assembly, and to discuss and exchange ideas with them and learn about the People's Assembly's experience. We also briefed them on our experience in the Consultative Council. Ideas were exchanged on ways to promote and enhance relations between the two bodies.

Shaykh al-Qatabi described the meetings he and his delegation held with senior Syrian officials during this visit as useful and fruitful. He said: During this visit, we were briefed on the Syrian position and course concerning the efforts made to reach a comprehensive and just peace. We were also briefed on Syrian initiatives in this regard. These initiatives enjoy regional and world appreciation for both their credibility and definite desire to achieve peace in the region.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh al-Qatabi said: We will brief our brothers in Oman on our ideas as part of ongoing contacts at the highest levels between the two fraternal countries.

India

Protests Against GATT Continue

BK1504095294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] In the Pondicherry assembly, the entire opposition consisting of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], CPI [Communist Party of India], and Janata Dal staged a walkout today following the deputy speaker's refusal to admit an adjournment motion. The motion tabled by CPI and Janata Dal members sought to discuss the signing of the GATT agreement. The deputy speaker, Mr. A.B. Subramaniam, while refusing permission for the motion said that the subject does not come under the purview of the union territory's assembly. The lone CPI member attended the session with a black towel on his shoulders to protest the signing of the GATT accord today.

In Kerala, the 12-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the CPI-ML [Communist Party of India-Marxist Leninist] today evoked little response. Barring some minor incidents of stone throwing, the bundh was by and large peaceful. Some shops and business establishments remained closed. However, traffic plied as usual. The bundh call was given in protest against India signing the GATT agreement.

Three Policemen Killed by Naga 'Extremists'

BK1504095994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] In Manipur, three police personnel were killed and one seriously injured when suspected Naga extremists attacked a police station in Ukhrul District early this morning. The extremists also looted some arms and ammunition. Intensive combing operations have been launched to nab the culprits.

Two Punjab 'Militants' Killed; Weapons Recovered

BK1504062194 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] In a major success in antiterrorist operations, the acting chief of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force, Punjab Singh, and an accomplice were killed this morning in an encounter with the security forces in Punjab's Tarn Taran District. He is responsible for more than 100 killings, including two bus massacres. Sixteen AK-47 rifles, one machine gun and one wireless set were recovered from the truck in which the militants were traveling.

New Kashmir Chief Secretary Appointed

BK1504040094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. H.S. Tayabji, a senior IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] cadre, has been appointed as the chief secretary of J and K.

He will take over charge today. He replaces Sheikh Ghulam Rasul, who has been posted as officer on special duty in the Union Welfare Ministry.

Iran

NATO 'Air Display' in Bosnia Seen 'Humiliating' Russia

LD1404142694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The NATO air attack on Serb positions last Monday, with the objective of forcing them to respect Gorazde as a UN declared safe haven, will undoubtedly affect the stand of all the warring sides and the influential foreign states. It is said that the U.S. Government wishes to continue such attacks from time to time, for the Serb aggression against Gorazde has wiped off the United Nations' last vestige of prestige and has undermined the Security Council decisions, taken under the influence of the western governments. But it seems that NATO is the main loser of this international air display.

The NATO air raids, although limited to some sort of air display so far, has angered the Russians who were not consulted on the decision to launch an air strike. [passage omitted]

The extreme nationalists of the Russian legislatures, including Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, have now become the major faction influencing Russia's foreign policy. This faction does not wish to see further humiliation of Russia. They become angry when they see their Slav brothers are killed by the NATO bombs. The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, therefore, protested and adopted a stand against the NATO air attack on the Serb positions. The attack foiled his dream of hoping that the West would consider Russia as an equal and trustworthy partner. The question in everybody's mind in Russia today is, when will the West stop humiliating Russia?

U.S. Official's Remarks on Drugs Criticized

NC1504063394 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Degrading Iran's Successful Anti-Drug Campaign"]

[Text] Since 1989 when the Majles (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) ratified the Antinarcotics Law—according to which tough punishments including long-term imprisonments and death penalty for local and international drug-traffickers were introduced—the quantity of narcotic drugs smuggled into Iran for either domestic use or transit to Europe, has drastically decreased.

During the past five years large quantities, including tens of tons of opium, heroin and morphine, have been seized by the Iranian National Security Forces from the smugglers, the bulk of which were en route to the European markets and possibly from Europe to other regions of the world. In their efforts to combat the well armed international drug smugglers, a number of Iranian law enforcement personnel were martyred.

Meanwhile every once in a while, some international human rights organization or certain foreign countries criticize Tehran for its anti-drug activities. For instance in October 1993, Amnesty International under the pretext of protecting "human rights" criticized Iran for its death penalty policy for traffickers.

The recent statement by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for international narcotics strategy, Mr. Robert Gelbard, who accused Iran of not being successful in its drug campaign is surely part of a general conspiracy to degrade the Islamic Republic of Iran's successful efforts in combating drug trafficking.

Unable to convince the European countries and Japan to join Washington's economic embargo plans against Tehran, it is not a big surprise to see a senior U.S. official making such a baseless statement at a time when Iran is planning to further enhance its cooperation in combating traffickers both at regional and global levels, within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization as well as international organizations such as the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) or Interpol.

It is crystal clear that drug smuggling is a major international problem which knows no boundaries and without regional and international cooperation, combating traffickers and drug abuse will be a costly measure and a bit difficult for individual states. Therefore it is no wonder to hear a senior U.S. official to make such a baseless statement in order to merely degrade Iran's anti-narcotic strives.

Indeed, it can be assessed that what Mr. Gelbard has said is part of Washington's general foreign policy strategy to isolate Iran by using all available means to crate a negative picture of the Islamic Republic in the minds of the international community. But, surely the antinarcotic planners of the country and the brave personnel of the National Security Forces will foil Washington's propaganda by adopting proper measures.

Editorial Views U.S.-Iranian Relations

NC1404132494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Sow the Wind and Reap the Whirlwind"]

[Text] Yesterday marked the 14th anniversary of severing of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic and the United States of America.

Several occasions arose in the last decade and a half for improving Irano-American relations, but so far there has been no change in the status quo.

An analytical review of the history of the two countries' relations reveals that two key factors were instrumental in shaping U.S. policy towards Iran prior to the Islamic Revolution. First was the U.S. fear of Communist domination of the oil-rich Persian Gulf region, and second was America's political immaturity combined with its military and economic supremacy which deprived the United States of the chance to understand the realities of world politics.

The United States never understood the Islamic Revolution in Iran because it never appreciated this country's culture and history. If the universal definition of politics is war fought without arms, then Washington's policies towards pre-revolutionary Iran must be defined as war fought by coercion.

Despite the friendly disposition of Iran towards the United States in the late 1940's and early 1950's, American policies, stemming from U.S. power, gradually soured the initial and cordial relations between the two countries and changed it into an antagonistic relationship. The role of the United States in toppling the nationalist government of Dr. Mosaddeq in 1953, and the subsequent U.S.-sponsored policies of Iran which neglected this country's religious, historical, and cultural backgrounds, was the final straw that broke the back of Iran-U.S. friendly relations.

The Islamic Republic's anti-American stance in the past 14 years is a natural reaction to U.S. actions in Iran since the 50's and is based on the principle of "he who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind." Iranians' collective opinion of the U.S. has changed, they no longer think of the United States as synonymous with names such as Morgan Shuster [served as Persia's treasurer-general in 1911] and [Arthur] Millspaugh [U.S. adviser to the Persian Ministry of Finance 1922-1927]. The new American image in the Iranian mind is one of an imperialist government with less than friendly designs for the Islamic Republic.

Washington has preferred to look at the world from the point of view of a superpower, while the Islamic Republic, which was founded on the principle of mutual respect in its dealings with other countries, refuses to bow to superpower pressure. The U.S. is faced with the same dilemma in Europe where it took on the role of the dominant Western power during the Cold War. Today's

European efforts to undermine U.S. authority is the logical outcome of 45 years of slave-master relationship between Europe and the United States.

The as yet undefined "new world order" has provided an opportunity for the U.S. to rethink its basic policies vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

Russia's Behavior in Plane Downing in Armenia Viewed

NC1504081994 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Suspicious Conduct of the Russians Will Prove Costly for Armenia"]

[Text] With the experts group's conclusion of its work and the Foreign Ministry's dissemination of its official statement on the downing of the Iranian cargo plane by Armenian antiaircraft missiles, the technical aspects of the incident are clearer. At first glance, it appears that due to laxity on the part of the navigation facilities in the region, especially the Yerevan facility, and the lack of serious and responsible support for the aircraft resulted in it deviating from its course into the war zone, where it ultimately was downed by the Armenians.

In any case, Armenia is responsible for this incident because the Georgian air control facility reported that it had safely guided the aircraft into Armenian airspace, so whatever occurred thereafter was the responsibility of Armenia as the host country.

There are certain other clues that point to a second possibility—that is, that the downing of the plane was not an accident but a preplanned plot. If this hypothesis is assumed to be correct, we have to consider who stood to gain from such an incident.

It appears that the Armenians do not stand to gain, for this would only result in straining relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and generate mistrust between the two neighbors. Therefore, such an act would not seem to be to Armenia's benefit. On the other hand, even though Azerbaijan stands to benefit from any worsening of relations between Iran and Armenia, in this particular case it could not have been able to interfere as the air corridors are designated by Russia, Georgia, Iran, and Armenia.

However, for quite some time Russia has considered this area its domain; and now that these countries have gained independence Russia's interests lie in the continuation of a state of instability and insecurity in the region so that it can use this as a pretext to justify the presence of its forces. On the other hand, it is possible the Russians refuse to remain passive while there is a growing trend of friendship and trust between Iran and regional countries such as Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, especially since at the same time these countries' displeasure with Russia is growing. Perhaps it is within the framework of these factors that we should view the growing unrest in that region and the fomenting of crises in order to erode the trust between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the rest of the region.

If we view the downing of the Iranian cargo airplane from this angle, there is much evidence to bolster this theory. First of all, news reports cite Moscow airport as saying that the flight route of the Iranian aircraft was suspicious, passing in the vicinity of the war zone—that is, the corridor [preceding word in English] over Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Iran. The other corridor, which is the safe one and the one normally used—passing over Russia, Azerbaijan, and the Caspian Sea—goes over Baku and the Caspian Sea and is far away from the war zone.

If an airplane were to develop the slightest technical problem while transiting the Georgia-Armenia corridor it would stray into the dangerous war zone of Nagorno-Karabakh. Proof of this is that when this happened to some airplanes earlier, Russia and Yerevan were able to inform the commander of the Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh immediately and thus forestall the downing of those aircraft. In this particular case, the navigation facility did not act as responsibly as before and simply let the aircraft remain in this dangerous zone.

The other proof, which is stronger than all the other evidence, is that less than 24 hours after the incident the Russians presented a detailed report by their military experts on the downing, which was carried by ITAR-TASS. This report attempted to disseminate for the first time at the regional and international levels a false and baseless rumor that the Iranian aircraft was on an espionage mission over Nagorno-Karabakh.

From the technical and practical point of view, this rumor is quite ridiculous, as the Iranian aircraft was only carrying family members of high-level Iranian diplomats and of some military personnel. It had remained on the ground in Moscow for three days prior to the flight and was directed toward Armenia by Moscow. What is interesting is that the pilot requested permission for an emergency landing at an Armenian airport. How could an airplane that had remained on the ground in Moscow for three days and later requested permission to land at an Armenian airport be on an espionage assignment against Armenians? Therefore, this preliminary report confirms the spuriousness of this rumor disseminated by the Russians.

In view of the extensive bureaucracy [preceding word in English] that we know characterizes the Russian system, how did the Russians obtain an expert analysis of the issue and manage to fabricate a rumor and even disseminate it so quickly by means of the ITAR-TASS news agency at the regional and international levels? All this points a premeditated plan with the specific objective of undermining trust and generating an atmosphere of suspicion in the region. It is also possible that this detailed report by ITAR-TASS had been prepared earlier.

Thus, on the basis of the information gleaned, the relevant high-level Iranian officials have contacted the Russian authorities to protest such troublemaking and ask them to deny the rumor publicly. The Russians expressed regret at the dissemination of this false rumor at the meeting, but not only did they not take any steps to issue a public denial, they even attempted to play up the issue in various ways in the Russian newspapers. Just yesterday [30 March] another Russian newspaper fanned this rumor once again. Therefore, the speed with which the rumor was concocted and disseminated and the Russian officials' insistence on spreading the rumor confirms the scenario of a there being a premeditated plot with regard to this painful incident.

The above points should be taken seriously into account. Armenia must be vigilant, and regardless of whether it was a premeditated plot against the Armenian regime or the result of carelessness on the part of the Armenian system in general the Armenian government should decide independently as a reliable neighbor to take responsibility for the incident. In a sincere and far-sighted manner, it should try to pacify this great neighboring nation [of Iran] and should strive to restore and consolidate once again the mutual trust between our two nations. Otherwise, this incident will continue to fester painfully like a sharp bone protruding from a wound, and will prove costly for Armenia, all because of its irresponsible neighbor [Russia].

Embassy in Ankara Decries Peres' 'Baseless' Remarks

LD1404140594 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—Iran's embassy in Ankara on Thursday denounced the "baseless" remarks made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Turkey against Iran. In a statement, the embassy said that it regretted that such baseless and meaningless statements were made in Iran's neighbouring state of Turkey.

Peres who is visiting Turkey, in his speech wished the laic government of Turkey would overcome the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The embassy statement stressed that world Muslims especially Muslims of Turkey know very well the "terrorist and unreliable" nature of the Zionist regime. Terrorist acts and instability in the Middle East began when imperialism implanted the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime in the heart of Muslim states, it said, adding all terrorist-motivated killings originated from the Zionist entity.

The Iranian Embassy said that Zionist officials by making such remarks could never mar the solid and brotherly relations between Iran and Turkey.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Velayati

LD1404193794 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The visiting Vietnamese deputy foreign minister, Nguyen Dy Nien here today called for expansion of Tehran-Hanoi cooperation in the international forums.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he expressed the satisfaction of Vietnam's high-ranking officials with expansion of relations with Tehran and hoped that the foundations of direct relations between the two countries would strengthen with the imminent visit of Vietnam's president to Tehran.

Velayati in response referred to the historical background of Vietnamese people against the occupiers and domineering powers and said that Iran attached special importance to its relations with Hanoi.

He voiced Iran's readiness to host the Vitenamese president and hoped that the visit would have positive and fruitful results in expansion of bilateral relations.

Nien will deliver a message from Vietnam's president to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Habibi Calls For Khuzestan Development Organization

NC1504060994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The first vice president has called for a regional development organization in Khuzestan. Habibi, who attended the Khuzestan Province Administrative Council session last night, said that in view of the favorable circumstances in Khuzestan, this organization can accelerate the area's growth and progress.

Various provincial officials briefed the session on the developments and problems of Khuzestan. The ministers of agriculture and of culture and Islamic guidance attended last night's session.

Editorial Views Use of Satellite Dishes

NC1404132994 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Satellite Dish"]

[Text] The use of satellite dishes is among the hottest subjects being debated in political and cultural circles of this country today.

Satellite receivers went up on rooftops of Tehran and other big cities with amazing speed in the last two years. The use of these dishes, in and of itself, does not constitute a reprehensible act, and can even be considered useful in disseminating news and information on a

global level. The disturbing aspect of this mass communications device, however, is that it is being used by the West to gradually and subtly dilute non-Western cultures and change the prevailing social, political, and cultural standards of the Third World.

The controversy is not confined only to Western and non-Western countries. Europe is up in arms against American films and television programs that have saturated the European screens and air waves. France is considering putting a limit on showing U.S.-made films and programs on French television, following the failure of American distributors to voluntarily cut down their imports to Europe.

The Islamic Republic is justifiably concerned with the possible negative effects of this phenomenon and is currently debating the best way to counter it. Other Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, have already decided to ban satellite dishes. But the cultural invasion problem will not be resolved by the physical removal of satellite receivers, because smaller and more powerful satellite antennae are being built and it would be next to impossible to detect them short of searching every household in the country.

Officials charged with the task of finding the solution to this problem should first find out when the new and undetectable satellite dishes will reach our markets. If it takes more than three or four years, then passing legislation banning the device may work for at least a few years in keeping unwanted programs from entering our households. But if it turns out that the arrival of small antennae in our market is only a matter of a few months, then the physical removal of the existing dishes will serve only to destabilize the society and will contribute to a general feeling of uncertainty among the law abiding citizens of the Islamic Republic.

The long-term and logical way to combat cultural invasion is to improve domestic production of films and radio and television programs, thereby removing the incentive to watch Western products. After successfully averting the West's cultural invasion through producing internationally marketable programs, we can export our religious values, culture, and art through the same medium of communication to the rest of the world.

The natural target of Western media moguls who own these global networks are the younger generations of the Third World population. Iran should invest in this same generation by providing them with a proper education which will emphasize the richness and beauty of our culture and Islamic heritage that throughout our history has acted as an antidote to poisonous foreign cultural invasions.

Pakistan

Minister Opposes Linking F-16 Sale, Nuclear Program

BK1504090394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, says supply of F-16 aircraft by the United States to Pakistan cannot be linked with its peaceful nuclear program. In an interview with BBC, he said the supply of the aircraft is a commercial commitment of the American Administration, for which Pakistan has already made payments. As for the American proposals relating to nuclear nonproliferation presented both to Pakistan and India, he said multilateral aspect of these proposals is quite interesting. Pakistan has agreed to move forward with some amendment in these proposals. He said we need to know about the American Administration's mind on the issue. The foreign minister said there is now a definite change in the thinking of the American Administration which is now prepared to look at Pakistan's position more reasonably. If this kind of confidence continues to develop, they would find answers to their problems without compromising their principles.

Editorial Decries Linkage

BK1304105894 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 9 Apr 94 p 10

[Editorial: "F-16's—Money or Aircraft; No Third Option, Nor Nuclear Deal Acceptable"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated in a news conference that Pakistan will not open its nuclear installations unilaterally to international inspection nor will it roll back its nuclear program. As far as the F-16 aircraft are concerned, they cannot be linked with the nuclear program. The United States should either hand over the aircraft to Pakistan or return the payment made for their delivery. The prime minister has forgotten about compensation. The payment should be collected along with compensation. One day prior to the arrival of the U.S. delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister precisely explained the country's stand on the nuclear program and also took efforts to dispel the doubts and apprehensions that the government would succumb to U.S. pressure or that the nuclear program would be rolled back or frozen and would be subjected to international inspection. Although the prime minister said this after getting a green signal from General Waheed, may God make her stick to her words and not succumb to any counsel on the question of the country's security and stability. In principle, the F-16 aircraft transaction has nothing to do with the nuclear program. Pakistan struck a deal with a U.S. firm for the purchase of more than 70 F-16 aircraft purely on a commercial basis and in the meantime had paid in installments an amount of $700 million, which is equivalent to the cost of 38 aircraft. The United States should fulfill its obligations in this direct commercial transaction and should not set a despicable example for

dishonesty, breach of promise, and unethical business practices in international commercial dealings although earlier, it had committed such a practice in the Arshad Parvez case. If the pro-Indian and pro-Israeli lobby does not want to see Pakistan become strong, the United States should face this lobby with confidence and not kneel before it and involve it in the conspiracy to weaken the security of Pakistan. It is regrettable that influenced by the propaganda of this lobby, the United States Government has been persistently refusing to hand over the F-16 aircraft; and now, the latest case is that if Pakistan wants to get F-16's, it should roll back its nuclear program and should subject it to international inspection in order to get ratification for the level of its capping.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has arrived in Islamabad by passing through New Delhi and as per international media analysis, this visit is a ploy to exert pressure on Pakistan although Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had stated that Pakistan would not come under any pressure and would not accept any conditions unilaterally. Prior to this, Army Chief Abdul Waheed also voiced the same feeling. We, however, are of the opinion that the mere precondition "unilaterally" is not enough now and even at the regional level, Pakistan should not compromise. Even if India accepts the conditions of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] (the chances for which are remote), its military superiority over Pakistan will be intact. Besides making a nuclear bomb, India has amassed a heap of missiles and acquired a huge quantity of weapons; in conventional weapons it also is better off than Pakistan. Therefore, as long as India's wings of aggression are not clipped and a cut is not imposed on its armed forces, defense allocation, and stockpile of arms under a collective and comprehensive package, there will always be the threat of a war being waged by India. Pakistan now should insist on the introduction of some sort of a collective and comprehensive package first, which does not put the balance of power in favor of India. Otherwise, Pakistan cannot sacrifice its defense capabilities. It is a blessing that the U.S. officials have revealed that Pakistan is capable of producing an atom bomb within minutes or seconds. There cannot be any other good news and a matter of satisfaction to the Pakistani people than this. So far, responsible institutions in Pakistan have declined to say anything to the people about this. Now, Pakistan can in no way forego this invaluable possession. It is imperative that the U.S. delegation should be given this impression and sent away from Pakistan.

President Assures High Level of Military Preparedness

BK1404150094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said Pakistan is fully conscious of its geographical and geostrategic sensitivities and the role it has to play in the newly emerging world order. Addressing PMA [Pakistan Military Academy] long course passing-out parade in Kakul today, the president said we strongly believe in the principle of peaceful coexistence and noninterference in the affairs of others. He said we have no aggressive designs against anyone and wish to live in peace and harmony with all, especially our neighbors. The president said, however, we have to maintain high level of preparedness to thwart any evil designs that imperil or jeopardize Pakistan's integrity. The parade was held in open in spite of continuing rain. [passage omitted]

Addressing the parade, the president lauded the professional capabilities of Pakistan armed forces.

[Begin Leghari recording] Let me assure you that the Government of Pakistan is fully conscious of our security needs and is doing its best to keep the armed forces of the country fully prepared to effectively defend the motherland and thwart any foreign aggression. Despite the many constraints, particularly economic, we shall equip our armed forces with the latest technologically advanced weapon systems and knowledge of related fields to qualitatively improve their condition so that the adverse effect of numerical inferiority can be offset. I am confident that our forces will be in a position to face the consequences of fast-changing geopolitical and geostrategic situation that Pakistan finds itself in. In fact our armed forces have already proved their effectiveness, both inside as well as outside the country, as part of different UN missions. We rightly feel proud of them. [end recording]

Cadets from some friendly countries, such as Bahrain, Jordan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives also got training in the current long course.

Iranian Speaker Comments on Talks With Leaders

BK1404144694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, has described his talks with the Pakistani leaders as very useful and constructive with more emphasis on strengthening the role of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. Speaking at a news conference in Karachi today before his departure, the Iranian speaker expressed complete satisfaction on the talks he held with the Pakistani leaders on matters of bilateral interest including Kashmir, Bosnia, and the Palestine. He said the two sides also discussed the project of constructing a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan and setting up of an oil refinery in Karachi. Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said the two countries will shortly exchange delegations for carrying out the feasibility for the proposed project. Replying to a question, he said the pace of cooperation among the ECO member countries would accelerate with the passage of time.

Indian Troops Reportedly Fire Over Control Line

BK1504035494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Indian troops fired from across the Line of Control without any provocation, killing one civilian and injuring another. In another incident in the village of Nakiyal, a house was badly damaged and one person was injured. The incident is believed to be the result of an act of sabotage.

Government Efforts To Track Terrorism Noted

BK1204065894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 3: The Federal Government was looking out for around 200 Arab nationals whose visas were cancelled in January. These Arab nationals were working with NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] involved in the welfare and rehabilitation of the displaced Afghans.

Most of these people, stationed in Peshawar and engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities were asked by the government to leave the country by Jan 31. However, even after the expiry of Jan 31 deadline the government knows nothing about their whereabouts.

Out of these 200 around 150 are Egyptian nationals, 40 Tunisians, and 8 from Algeria, says a report prepared by the Federal Government.

The Egyptian authorities are convinced that the assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak was sponsored by the Egyptian dissidents residing in Pakistan. President Mubarak had personally conveyed this concern to former Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The then Pakistani PM had explained that his country had nothing to do with the terrorists and would extradite the Arab nationals from its soil.

"It is presumed that these people had left the country, says a high level government official in Islamabad. But to which country they have gone the government is not sure.

The Government of Pakistan, the officials said, was very clear on the subject. Since the Afghan Jehad has ended all the foreign nationals involved in the activity must leave the country, the official said.

"There will be no visa extension for them and those granted extensions should consider them void," said the officials. The government he said was determined to clear itself of the allegations that Pakistan was sponsoring terrorist activities. The Pakistani soil would not be allowed for any activities against any other state against any other state, he said.

Following the cancellation of visas of these Arab nationals, several reminders were sent to the NWFP government asking for report on the implementation of the federal government's directive for the extradition of the Arab nationals. The provincial government, however, had so far failed to reply to any of these directives.

The officials were of the view that the government of Pakistan had no desire to keep such people in the country as they could be dangerous for the country's security too."

However, the Government of Pakistan cannot hand over the culprits to the Governments of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia. Pakistan is making efforts to hammer out extradition treaties with at least three of the Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. The signing of the treaties will facilitate exchange of criminals.

Officials, however, could not confirm that Pakistan, during 1993, had extradited 3,000 Arab nationals as stated by Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Syed Iqbal Haider.

Sri Lanka

Iranian Speaker Arrives From Pakistan

NC1504060094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo from Pakistan last night on the second leg of his Asian tour and was greeted by the Sri Lankan speaker and Iranians living there. During his stay in Sri Lanka, the Majles speaker will meet high-ranking Sri Lankan officials and will discuss issues of mutual interest.

Sri Lanka, which is situated in south Asia, has a population of 17 million. Its most important export item is tea.